



The Muscogee Nation News

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January 1999, 8 pages

Muscogee (Creek) Nation seeks entries for its first film and video competition in May

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is currently seeking entries for its first film and video competition to be held May 7th and 8th.

Entries should be produced between the years of January 1995 through March 1999.

Entries will be accepted from six categories; each category must contain a Native American theme. The categories are: feature; documentary; experimental; animation; high school; and college-amateur.

Entries must be accompanied by: a completed entry form; signed regulations agreement form; video home system (VHS) screening cassette per each entry; and \$25 entry fee per film or video payable to — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Film and Video Competition.

Deadline for entries is March 26. For entry forms or more information, contact Gerald Wofford, coordinator, at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 300; 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 300; e-mail, crk2@ocevnet.org; or write, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The physical mailing address is 1008 E. Eufaula.

Baby New Year

Baby New Year John Zachary Taylor is pictured with mom, Leslie.

He was born at 9:44 a.m., Jan. 1 to Henryetta tribal citizens Mark and Leslie Taylor. Born at St. John's Medical Center, Tulsa, he weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches in length. His paternal grandparents are Lewis "Junior" and Janet Taylor. Maternal grandparents are Shelly and John Crow III.

His great-grandparents are the late Doretha Beaver Stubbs and Everett W. Stubbs.

He has one sister, Morgan Lynn Taylor, age two.

He is the son of Ocevpoiv Tribal Town and a descendant of the Raccoon Clan and Tukvpvtee Tribal Town.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Century ends millenium with tumultuous changes in tribal government and community *Legacy of Chitto Harjo still revered.*

by Gerald Wofford

During the early 1900s it is likely that the Muscogee, as well as American Indians in general, faced greater changes than any race in the world.

The U.S. government demanded the American Indian to change his way of life. The root of native peoples' existence — communal living and the buffalo hunt had already become relics. The new way of existence was to look out for one's self — to forget about the ways and laws of old.

The turn of the century brought changes to the country as well. With the industrial revolution businesses boomed and millionaires prospered.

America, as well as the world, began to see the power of the economy and the all-mighty dollar. Immigrants

from all over the world saw America as the true promised land and made their way here to start new lives.

With the country's victory in the Spanish-American War, the U.S. began to play an even more prominent role in world affairs.

Education was seen as the key to assimilating the American Indian. With the introduction of government boarding schools, the aboriginal people of this land were exposed to the white man's ways.

The government also saw another way of transformation, through land possession which would grant each tribal individual a piece of land or allotment.

The government believed that this would encourage individuality and ambition to assimilate into main-

stream society. The General Allotment Act, passed by Congress in 1887, along with the Curtis Act of 1898 — which terminated the tribe in a legal sense — assured desired results.

The face of the world and the U.S. government were constantly changing during this unique time in history. With new laws and a changing society, it was popular and convenient for most Indians to simply accept change, but a small group of conservative full-bloods would not accept anything less than holding the federal government to treaty obligations.

The name "Chitto Harjo" evokes different opinions. To many he was a true tribal patriot, believing unto the end in tribal sovereign rights. To others he is



Chitto Harjo

Nominees for outstanding citizens sought

Throughout 1999 *The Muscogee Nation News* will spotlight a Muscogee person who has made an impact in the areas of promoting community welfare, tribal rights and sovereignty, cultural responsibility, and arts and entertainment during the last 100 years.

Throughout the year, *The MNN* requests that tribal citizens submit nominations for someone they feel is the Muscogee (Creek) Citizen of the Century. These individuals can range from tribal politicians, traditional, community, and church leaders to veterans and educators.

Accompany each nomination with a short paragraph explaining why this person is deserving of that distinction. In December *The MNN* will announce the Citizen of the Century and the top nominees.

please see **CHITTO HARJO**..., page 2

Letters to the editor

Imprisoned Muscogee seeks medicine

Editor:

I'm a young warrior trapped inside the *estehutkes* iron house in California. Me and my red brothers here are being denied our rights as humans and most of all, being a redman — they say we must cut our hair when we all know the importance of this growth. I would like those with advice or wisdom knowledge to contact me.

We brothers stress because we don't have the support we need — not greed materials — but spiritual items for our ceremonies. We have one sponsor, but he is tied up with five different prisons and his time is little. If there is are brothers or sisters who can give a little medicine, please contact me as soon as possible. The main medicine we use is sage, cedar, and sweetgrass. Any of these sacred herbs can be sent to: Elvin Ray Buck #J87729, P.O. Box 290066-C8-225, Represa, CA 95671-0066.

May Hesaketvimese bless you on all of your spiritual roads.

Elvin Ray Buck, Represa, Calif.

Chitto Harjo

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pure legend; his exploits and confrontation still bring a smile to those willing to share passed down stories of the last, great Muscogee warrior. He is also revered by some for his medicine ways, which are believed to have enabled him to elude federal authorities.

Perhaps his name, or names, added to his mythical status. His warrior name was Chittoharjo; its English translation was interpreted by non-Indians as Crazy Snake. Wilson Jones, his given and surnames, were obviously not as popular.

The coming changes were something Chitto Harjo never accepted — the division of land, a new education and religion, and the dissolution of tribal government.

In 1901 Chitto Harjo and his followers, referred to as the Crazy Snakes, began enforcing tribal laws and a Constitution that had been deemed invalid by the U.S. government. With Harjo's tribal town — Hickory Ground — serving as headquarters they established a separate government based on old treaties. Chitto and his followers even posted their intentions of following the written tribal law throughout Muscogee territory. So, it was no surprise when progressive tribal members and area white settlers called for his arrest.

In 1901 Chitto Harjo and his followers were taken into custody by the military arm of the government and indicted, reprimanded, and paroled by the court.

Chitto and his followers felt the sting of a new world, and quietly resided at their homes afterward.

The next few years would see the allotment of land to each tribal member, although Chitto and the Crazy Snakes never accepted theirs.

In 1906, as Oklahoma and Indian Territory prepared to be joined as present day Oklahoma, a special Senate Investigating Committee comprised of Senators Teller of Colorado, Clarke of Montana, Brandage of

Okmulgean wants fair water rates for all

Editor:

Jorene Coker's letter, published in the November issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*, about the vote returning all republicans to Congress reminded me to shout — as loudly and as often as I can — what I had announced at a Dec. 8 meeting of the Okmulgee City Council.

Evidence gathered by a small group of Okmulgee citizens, caused us to believe that, on July 15, 1975, a secret public meeting had been conducted at which water and sewer rates had been proposed and accepted by few who had been invited.

I believe public officers who would conduct such secret public meetings should be put on display in a confined location.

The research I have been doing has revealed that only one local industry had been offered a contract for water sales below cost and it was for 30 years.

We might all inquire of our elected city councilmen when they plan to permit every private citizen and every other industry to pay less than cost for the water delivered to us. Do not complain to them; I believe each takes orders from the local bankers

rather than voters.

I have been seeking a copy of the water rate offered to Merck & Co., Inc., the parent company of Kelco. Why can't this be published for everyone to inspect? Very truly yours,

James Burruss, Okmulgee

Legal notices

XAE Corporation is looking for the heir(s) of Lucille Deer Swartwood, or the whereabouts of Billy Joe or Billie Joe Swartwood.

Individuals that can provide any information, may call XAE Corporation collect at (405) 235-6460 and ask for Jan Clarkson.

XAE Corporation is looking for the heirs of Ruth King Sangsteer, last known address in 1978 was 813 W. 41st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037. Individuals that can provide any information, may call XAE Corporation collect at (405) 235-6460 and ask for Jan Clarkson.

Connecticut and Long of Kansas came to Indian Territory to investigate and report upon general conditions. Public hearings were held at principal points in the territory and on Nov. 23, the committee opened a hearing in Tulsa. It was at this time that Chitto made an eloquent plea for the U.S. government to uphold its treaties. The committee listened, but did not respond.

It is believed that Chitto would have accepted the new laws and ways if only he could have talked with the U.S. president to be told that the old treaties were void. It is said that his wish was almost realized. Whether Harjo travelled to Washington or Roosevelt was in the territory is not clear. He was eager to discuss tribal Constitutional law, although after a quick introduction he was shuffled off by administrative officials. Chitto Harjo, who had once defended the honor of the United States by fighting for the Union in the Civil War, was brushed off.

Understanding that the world had changed, Chitto quietly resided at home from then on, tending to his farm and traditional way of life. He still held to his beliefs and spoke passionately of them, but only to close friends.

The government, progressives, white land owners, and local officials continued to watch him constantly because of unwarranted rumors of a future uprising and petty crimes that were linked to him. Harjo soon learned that the state militia was after him. Fear of this quiet, peaceful man was the impetus for statewide panic.

Stories, as they sometimes do, differ from this point on. It is said at this anxiety-ridden time that local law authorities approached Chitto's home located in McIntosh County. Harjo, knowing he had not done wrong, appeared at the front door along with his friend, Charles Coker. According to Harjo and Coker, bul-

... please see CHITTO HARJO... page 3.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor

Lucas Taylor, graphic design

Gerald Wofford, photography

Denise Jacobs, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the Dec. 19 regular session.

Absent were: **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; and **David Nichols**, Okmulgee.

Speaker Childers conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business it:

- approved unanimously (22-0) Tribal Resolution 98-44, supporting Census 2000 for a full and accurate count placing emphasis on Muscogee citizens;

Voting yes were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **David Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **George Tiger**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously (22-0) TR 98-43, confirming the nomination of Barbara L. Berryhill to serve as a Eufaula Boarding School Board member. Berryhill is a tribal citizen residing in Wetumka;

- approved (15-7) National Council Act 98-120, authorizing a special appropriation for unpaid funeral ex-

penses of tribal citizens. The act provided \$1,945 to assist the families of two Muscogee citizens whose funeral assistance was never processed;

Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Gouge**, McIntosh; **Little**, Muskogee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Tiger**, Creek; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-125, approving a marketing agreement between Coca-Cola USA Fountain and the Nation. The agreement entails Coca-Cola's provision of fountain drink concessions for the Nation's gaming facilities;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-126, authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 to purchase a manufactured office for the gaming operations authority board;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-128, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of \$312,478 for the renovation and start-up costs of an Okemah Indian Community facility to be used for economic development;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-129, an annual appropriation of \$5,000 to the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee. The home serves the needs of deprived, neglected, and abused Indian children of all tribes;

- approved (21-0) NCA 98-130, creating the Nation's department of grant program compliance, establishing the minimum qualifications for the position of administrator and setting forth certain procedures to be followed in the selection and employment of administrator;

Ellis, Okmulgee, did not vote;

- approved (21-0) NCA 98-131, creating the department of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act and tribal service program planning, establishing the minimum qualifications for the position of administrator and setting forth certain procedures to be followed in the selection and employment of administrator;

Ellis, Okmulgee, did not vote;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-132, creating the department of environmental services, establishing the minimum qualifications for the position of administrator and setting forth certain procedures to be followed in the selection and employment of administrator;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-133, amending the Nation's fiscal year 1998 Indian housing plan to reflect certain administrative activities and positions and the funding thereof, as well as affordable housing activities to be conducted under said plan;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-134, amending the Nation's fiscal year 1998 Indian housing plan to reflect certain administrative activities and positions and the funding thereof, as well as affordable housing activities to be conducted under said plan;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-135; authorizing and appropriating funds for a \$5,000 donation to the Morris chapter of the National Association for Family and Community Education for its playground project; and

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-137, authorizing the expenditure of funds to purchase a video security system for Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo.



Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver makes plans for the Muskogee Veterans Commemorative Monument official by signing a contract with Willis Granite Products Co., Inc. Pictured, left to right, front are: Second Chief George Almerigi; and Chief Beaver; back — Willis Granite Product Co. owners Linda and William Willis; and Committee of Osten members, Phillip Coon and Jorene Coker.

Chitto Harjo

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lets were immediately fired at the two men without warning. Somehow, depending on who you may hear it from, the two men were able to escape this onslaught. According to these stories, they were either lucky, great marksmen, or had good medicine, although they did not escape scot-free. Chitto had suffered a bad wound in his hip and Coker, a shot in the chest. The opposing side had suffered also; two deputy sheriffs had been killed.

It is at this time that Harjo and Coker, along with Anderson Harris of Lukfata, fled to the home of a Choctaw friend, Daniel Bob. Chitto would cross the

South Canadian River for the last time and leave behind his beloved home and people. He had always considered leaving the boundaries of Muscogee Territory as entering a foreign country.

With the state militia closely behind the journey was neither safe nor swift. Daniel Bob's home was nestled high in the Kiamichi Mountains and took days to reach. Traveling half a day and resting half Harjo, in spite of the wound, was able to reach this secluded haven.

Though persistent and using his abandoned home as part of a stakeout, the state militia never found Chitto Harjo.

He died on April 11, 1911 and was buried in the Bob family's front yard. No efforts were ever made to return his body to rest in his homeland.

Chief presents National Council appropriation to organization

Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver presents a \$5,000 donation to Nancy McChesney, president of Morris Members of Many Specialties, a local chapter of the National Association for Family and Community Education. The local chapter plans to use the money to establish a community playground located on the grounds of Morris Public Schools.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Whatever feelings and beliefs one may have of this special Muscogee, it is important to note that the spirit of his cause has been passed down through many generations. Through the written word or by speaking with Muscogee elders, many have to come to know and revere this proud man. But, just as this century is fading away, it is discouraging to note that the history of Chitto Harjo is fading away also. Ask anyone under the age of sixteen about his legacy; it's likely that your response will be a blank stare.

As we leave this century behind we should take time to remember a man who uttered a shout that has echoed throughout the decades — the fight for tribal sovereignty.

Programs-notices

Eufaula Dormitory finalizes agreement

EUFULA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Dormitory recently finalized a lease agreement to allow construction of a 180 foot cellular tower for United States Cellular Telephone of Greater Tulsa, L.L.C. on the campus of the dormitory.

Principal Chief Perry Beaver and the National Council approved the agreement allowing a cellular tower to be built on an area not included in the dormitory's 10 year master plan.

All revenue from the lease agreement will go toward scholarships for graduating dormitory seniors. It will enable students the opportunity to earn a degree or learn a trade at a four-year university, junior college, vocational-technical or training school.

The lease agreement is projected to generate over \$60,000 in scholarships within the next 10 years.

U.S. Cellular had other viable options for the tower sight, but chose Eufaula Dormitory because of the chance to help fund educational opportunities for American Indian youth.

Fire safety and home safety poster contest

OKMULGEE — The Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in cooperation with Amerind Risk Management Corporation is accepting entries for the 1999 National Fire Safety and Home Safety Poster Contest.

Each year the Amerind pays out more than \$1 million for claims as a result of children playing with fire and for claims resulting in injuries to children as well as others.

"The poster contest is just one way of spreading the message that safety is important to our Native American culture," said Dennis Williams, Eufaula Low Rent Onsite Counselor.

Each year the poster winner is recognized for creating a "safety message." The winner, along with his/her parents or legal guardian(s), will be awarded with an all expense paid trip to Amerind's 13th annual meeting and safety fair in San Diego, Calif. in October.

Contestant rules and entry forms are available at the housing authority office located at the capital complex or branch offices in Checotah, Eufaula, and Okemah.

For more information contact Ed Moore, resident services manager, at 1 (800) 259-5050.

Diabetics urged to get flu shot

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Department of Health along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage Oklahomans with diabetes to get a flu shot this season.

Oklahomans with diabetes are six times more likely than persons without diabetes to be hospitalized during the flu epidemics.

"Diabetes is a major risk factor for increased death and disease caused by flu, yet more than half of people with diabetes did not get a flu shot in a recent year," said J.R. Nida, state health commissioner.

For more information about diabetes and its complications contact: American Diabetes Association,

please see **DIABETES**..., page 5

Frank selected as December employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Florence Frank, children and family services intake specialist, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's December employee of the month.

Frank's duties consist of maintaining the case file management system, researching tribal eligibility blood quantum for intake referrals, aiding in assigning and daily case staffing with staff, and recording initial intake case narratives.

Her coworkers consistently listed her professional capabilities, courteousness, and optimistic attitude as reasons why she should be acknowledged as employee of the month.

She and her husband, Newman, have been married for 17 years and reside in Glenpool with their two children, Dala, nine, and Trevor, six. They also have a son, Jeff, 26, who resides in Kellyville. She has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for three years.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program Clinic Site Schedule

LOCATION	HOURS
Okmulgee Clinic OSU Okmulgee, Lackey Hall 1801 E. 4th, P.O. Box 2148 Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 756-2722 Contact Person: Yvonne Bevenue or Kelly Gathman	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sapulpa Health Center 1125 E. Cleveland Sapulpa, OK 74066 (918) 224-9310 Contact Person: Kelly Gathman	Monday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Eufaula Indian Community Center 806 Forest Avenue Eufaula, OK 74432 (918) 689-9191 Contact Person: Kelly Gathman	Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Creek Nation Community Hospital PHN Office 302 N. 14th Okemah, OK 74859 (918) 623-2005 Contact Person: Michelle Hays	Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tulsa Indian Community Center 8611 S. Union Tulsa, OK 74132 (918) 298-2464 Contact Person: Yvonne Bevenue	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Koweta Indian Community Center Box 22, Ben Lumpkin Road 141 N. Coweta, OK 74429 (918) 486-9904 Contact Person: Yvonne Bevenue	2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Holdenville Indian Community Center 416 E. Poplar Holdenville, OK 74848 (918) 698-2304	3rd Thursday of each month 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information please contact Joy Flud, Muscogee (Creek) Nation WIC Program director, at: (918) 758-2722; or 1 (800) 648-2302.

Diabetes

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Tulsa Regional Office at 1 (800) 259-6552; Oklahoma City Regional Office at 1 (800) 259-6551; or the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation at 1 (800) JDF-CURE.

Bone marrow donors sought

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The American Indian/Alaska Native Initiative National Marrow Donor Program is seeking volunteer donors.

Every year, hundreds of American Indian and Alaska Native adults and children die of leukemia, aplastic anemia and other potentially fatal blood diseases. Many of these deaths can be prevented with a marrow transplant.

The first step toward becoming a marrow donor involves a simple blood test. The donor consents to have his or her marrow type listed anonymously on the NMDP registry. Registry donors are available to any patient searching for a matched unrelated donor.

Potential donors must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health. There are no costs to American Indian-Alaska Native volunteer donors. Currently, the initial blood test is free to minorities.

To learn how and where to join the NMDP Registry, call 1 (800) MARROW2.

NAPT receives funding support

LINCOLN — Native American Public Telecommunications announced three major funding organizations have added their support to NAPT's national programming.

The Ford Foundation and the Jon D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation have awarded grants of \$100,000 each for research and development for *Native Americans in the 21st Century*.

In addition, the Ford Foundation has awarded a grant of \$150,000 to support NAPT's award-winning national call-in radio program, *Native America Calling*, which is heard daily on NAPT's American Indian Radio on Satellite network as well as being webcast at www.nativetelecom.org.

It is also in receipt of a \$342,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Radio Program Fund to produce *Club Red*, a 13-part series featuring Oneida comedian Charlie Hill.

Club Red will be co-produced by Peggy Berryhill, a Muscogee tribal citizen, and her Native Media Resource Center for spring 2000 release.

Undeclared districts by registered voters

OKMULGEE — Registered Muscogee Nation voters must declare a voting district in order to be eligible to vote.

The following registered voters have not declared a voting district: Harold Doc Berryhill; Corsicana, Texas; Donald Charles Bird, Oklahoma City; Monroe Bird Sr., Oklahoma City; Monroe Bird Jr., Oklahoma City; Josephine Brown, Catoosa; Agnes Belle Carr, Lawton; Tony George Chesnutt, Yukon; Margaret Lou Chuculate, Sallisaw; Rhoda Estherline Cooper, Mesa, Ariz.; Eunice Cully, Konawa; Tod Verde Dickey, Phoenix, Ariz.; Ken William, Phoenix, Ariz.; Dixon McIntosh Gray, Jones; Linda Jeanne Gruno, Aurora, Colo.; Donald Eugene Harjo, Reno, Nev.; Jonathon Kirt Herrod, Wapato, Wash.; Ronald Tho-

Muscogee (Creek) Nation service award recipients



photo by Gerald Wofford, Muscogee Nation Communications

Pictured, from left to right, front row: Rosle Berryhill, Okmulgee, 15 years, food distribution; Tracy Lowe, Okmulgee, 15 years, election board; Louise Tecumseh, Okmulgee, 24 years, management information services; Pat Morgan, Okmulgee, 21 years, tribal affairs; Judy Haumpy, Tulsa, 16 years, social services; and Augusta Anderson, Holdenville, 16 years, social services; middle row — Cheryl Grayson, Okmulgee, 15 years, controller's office; George Ann McGirt, Dustin, 19 years, Graham Head Start; Nellie Hallum, Eufaula, 15 years, Eufaula Head Start; Maxine Watashe, Sapulpa, 19 years, general services administration; Barbara Dunn, Morris, 15 years, Job Training Partnership Act Program; and Joyce Vaughn, Checotah, 17 years, accounting; back row — Marsey Scott, Wetumka, 19 years, Lighthouse Administration; Thomas Mitchell, Okmulgee, 23 years, accounting; Steve Landsberry, Henryetta, 15 years, child care; Fredo Anderson, Okemah, 24 years, Job Training Partnership Act Program; and Bob Arrington, Sapulpa, 15 years, roads construction.

Not pictured are: Molesia Deer, Wetumka, 16 years, Yeager Head Start; Elouise Johnson, Holdenville, 18 years, Yeager Head Start; Deborah McGirt, Wetumka, 18 years, Job Training Partnership Act Program; Jemi On-The-Hill, Momis, 16 years, higher education; and Linday Rayon, Beggs, 17 years, food distribution.

mas Huluby, Edmond; Terry Jo House, Oklahoma City; Lawnada Elane James, Tahlequah; Lela M. Keifer, Springdale, Ark.; Ronald Eugene Lowe, Pawhuska; Minnie Lowman, Watson; Alice Mae McLaughlin, Lawton; Robert Raynaldo Mendoza, Orono, Maine; Robert Carr Moore, Derby, Kan.; Edith Pauling Morgan, Juneau, Alaska; James Steven Morgan, Indiana, Penn.; Karen Lynette Morris, Moore; Lucy Nelson, Dallas, Texas; Florence Charline Owen, Midwest City; Linda Lou Ponkilla, Shawnee; Sandra Kaye Rains, Oklahoma City; Brenda Janette Robertson, Moore; Raymond Scott, Oklahoma City; Martha Wynell Slone, Pawhuska; Russell Dean Sullivan, Broken Bow; Robert Edwin Sweeney, Tahlequah; Peggy Sue Sweeney, Tahlequah; Lisa Carroll Talkington,

Moore; Cassie Allyson Temple, Denham Springs, La.; Bamey Howard Thomas, Wichita, Kan.; and Connie Leann Tidwell, Bartlesville; Betty Mae Tiger, Oklahoma City; Samuel Tiger Sr., Oklahoma City; Delores Jane Tiger, Shawnee; Tillier Wesley Jr., Mamie West, Saginaw; Edith Morene Wichita, Pawnee; Millie Jean Wiley, Kingfisher; and Clint Yarholer, Oklahoma City.

Annual conference on Indian tourism

TULSA — The Five Civilized Tribes Tourism and Marketing Association is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Economic Development Conference on Indian Tourism Feb. 24, 25, and 26 at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Tulsa. For more information call 1 (800) 593-3356.

Lighthouse police first to report tribal statistics to the state

OKMULGEE — As of early January, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department will become the first tribe within the state to commence reporting tribal criminal statistics to the state uniform crime report.

The report is a city, county, and state law enforcement program. This program provides a nationwide view of crime based on the submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The crime data is submitted to the state or national UCR program which is administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Lighthouse field officers undergo training for the Uniform Crime Report. Pictured, from left to right, are: Jimmy Nixon; Richard Flxico Jr.; Daniel Checotah; and Jerry Wittman.

Education

Butner boy attends OSU college weekend

STILLWATER — Timothy Randale Wind attended Oklahoma State University's second college weekend held Nov. 14 through 16.

Wind, a senior at Butner High School, experienced college life at OSU along with more than 40 Native American students statewide.

The OSU Native American Student Association and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society sponsored the weekend in hopes of providing high school students with an inside perspective of higher education.

The students were given guided tours of the college of veterinary medicine and the college of engineering, architecture, and technology. The students were allowed to attend classes with NASA and AISES members also.

Wind plans to attend Seminole State College in the fall and then major in mechanical engineering at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Cleveland girl named student of the month

CLEVELAND — Amanda Guthrie was named December student of the month at Cleveland Middle School.

The faculty voted in favor of Guthrie, a sixth grade student, for her academic achievement and behavior.

A certificate of recognition and a lunch at Mazzio's Pizza was presented to her for her scholastic efforts.

She maintains a 4.0 grade point average and enjoys playing softball and basketball.

Her parents are Jeff and Kathy Guthrie of Cleveland. Her grandparents are Rev. Dave and Cogee Long, the late Walter Keith, Avery and Zola Guthrie, and Lloyd and Ruth Briggs.

She is the great-granddaughter of the late, former Muscogee Nation Principal Chief, Claude A. Cox.



Guthrie

Higher education accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Higher Education is accepting application requests for the 1999-2000 academic year.

To be eligible students must: possess a certificate degree of Indian blood and Muscogee tribal membership cards; be planning to attend an accredited two-year junior college or four-year university in the U.S.; and apply for federal financial aid at their college or university and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form to be eligible for the higher education grant.

Applications will be mailed February through May 31. Submit written requests for applications. The closing date to apply for the self governance higher education grant is June 1. The tribal grant application closing date is June 15.

Continuing students already on the program must have submitted current grade reports or transcripts and met requirements to receive a renewal form. The renewal forms will be mailed March 1 and should be returned by June 1.

For more information, contact the higher education office at: (918) 756-8700; or 1 (800) 482-1979, exts. 614, 615, or 616.

University seeks students for studies

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A new graduate program in indigenous nations studies at the University of Kansas is accepting applications from prospective students for fall 1999 admission.

The new course of study will lead to a master of arts degree in indigenous nations studies. The degree can be applied to general studies of indigenous nations in the Americas, to museum studies, or to professional fields working with tribal sovereignty issues.

The university developed this interdisciplinary program in cooperation with Haskell Indian Nations University. Haskell is an intertribal university with an enrollment of 900 students from more than 150 indigenous nations within the U.S. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the academic and social activities of both KU and Haskell.

The graduate program allows students to choose from three study tracks that offer courses in: American Indian literature; American studies; anthropology; archaeology; business; ecology; education; geography; history; law; linguistics; political science; social welfare; and sociology. Research options will include apprenticeships in approved organizations or settings related to indigenous peoples of the Americas.

A baccalaureate degree is required to be eligible for admission. Early applications will receive first consideration for financial aid.

For more information regarding admission requirements, procedures, and financial aid information contact the Indigenous Nations Studies Program office at: (785) 864-2660; or by e-mail at insp@raven.cc.ukans.edu.

Skowhegan offers art residency program

MAINE — The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture is offering a nine-week residency program in rural Maine for 65 advanced visual artists from June 12 through August 14.

The application deadline for the residency program is Feb. 1.

For more information, contact: The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 200 Park Ave. S., Suite 1116, New York, NY, 10003-1503; or (212) 529-0505.

United Methodist offers scholarships

NASHVILLE — United Methodist Communications is offering two \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarships and two \$6,000 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarships in the field of religious journalism or mass communications.

The Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for ethnic minority undergraduate students is offered annually in recognition of Perryman, a jour-

nalist for the United Methodist Church for nearly 30 years.

Only U.S. ethnic minority undergraduate students who intend to pursue careers in religious communication and are enrolled in either their junior or senior years in accredited institutions of higher education in the U.S. are eligible for the scholarships.

The Stooddy-West Fellowship for graduate study in religious journalism is offered in recognition of the professional competence and inspired service of Dr. Ralph Stooddy and Dr. Arthur West, leaders in public relations and information services in The United Methodist Church for 35 years.

The scholarships will be awarded to two Christian students engaged in religious journalism or planning to enter graduate study at a U.S. accredited and approved school or department.

For application forms for the 1999-2000 academic year write to: Scholarship-Fellowship Committee, United Methodist Communications, Public Media Division, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320. Completed applications must be mailed by Feb. 15.

Oklahoma Arts Institute holding auditions

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Arts Institute is holding auditions in January and February for students ages 14 to 18 to attend the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute on June 12 through 27 at the University of Oklahoma.

The summer institute is a two week residential school that provides pre-professional training to Oklahoma students. Students receive in-depth instruction in their chosen area of visual, literary, or performing arts. Nationally recognized artists teach courses in the tradition of the master-apprentice approach.

Auditions for OSAI are in: orchestral music; choral music; ballet; modern dance; acting; poetry; drawing; sculpture; and photography. Photography student will audition by sending portfolios to OAI by no later than Feb. 28.

The summer institute costs \$1700 per student, but all that attend receive an \$850 scholarship from the Oklahoma State Department of Education and an \$850 scholarship from private OAI donors. The remaining \$100 is paid by the student.

To send portfolios or for more information, contact: Oklahoma Arts Institute, P.O. Box 18154, Oklahoma City, OK 73154 or (405) 842-0890.

OSBH changes immunization requirements

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Board of Health has approved changes to the immunization requirements for children attending school and day care.

Hepatitis A and varicella (chickenpox) vaccines were added to school requirements, and hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella were added to day care requirements.

The changes to the school immunization laws were adopted by the board of health on an emergency basis on June 18 and became effective on July 29. The new day care requirements were adopted by the state board of health on Nov. 19 and will become effective in the late spring.

For more information on immunization requirements for children, or to locate the nearest immunization clinic, call: 1 (800) 522-0203.

Society

Arrivals

Zachary Barnett

CLAREMORE — Zachary Joseph Barnett was born July 28 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Linda Barnett.

He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches in length. Barnett belongs to the Wind Clan and Kvnate Tribal Town.

His grandparents are Rachael Barnett and Joe Barnett, both of Bristow. His great-grandparents are Nicey and the late Solomon Wilson of the Kvnate area and the late Jim and Lizzie Barnett, Bristow.

He has one sister, Robyn, 12, and three brothers, Matthew, 11, Christopher, nine, and Spencer, eight.



Barnett

Birthdays

Henryetta girl celebrates first birthday

HENRYETTA — Audrie Lynn Billie celebrated her first birthday on Nov. 21 with family and friends.

Billie was born on Nov. 17 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Lisa Thompson and John Billie of Henryetta.

She is the daughter of the Deer Clan and the granddaughter of Ocevpoftv Tribal Town.

Her maternal grandparents are George and Nora Thompson of Henryetta.

Paternal grandparents are Emma Factor of Morris and John Billie of Cushing.

She is the great-granddaughter of Louise Billie of Tulsa.



Billie

Girl celebrates her thirteenth birthday

HAWORTH — Jessica Dawn Stonecipher celebrated her thirteenth birthday with a party and a pink and white three tier cake.

Stonecipher turned 13 on Dec. 9. Helping her celebrate were her parents and her sister Michelle Roden of Hugo.

She attends Haworth Junior High and is active in the Pleasant Hill Community Church.

Her parents are James and Rev. Vicki Carrell of Haworth.



Stonecipher

Bristow Indian community holds Christmas party

BRISTOW — The Bristow Indian Community held their annual Christmas party on Dec. 19.

The activities included a dinner, drawing for door prizes; special guests were City of Bristow Mayor Leon Parson and Santa Claus.

Community member Amos McNac provided Christmas music for the party.

photo submitted

Pictured, front row, from left to right are: Evelyn Buckrot, secretary; Santa Claus; Alex Deerinwater, chairman; and Tom Watson, vice-chairman.



She is the granddaughter of Eddie Bryan Leader of Okmulgee. Her great-grandfather is Barney Leader Jr. of Spaulding and her great-great grandfather is the late Jimmie Bell.

California toddler turns one

WILSON COMMUNITY — Ahlesia Opvny Williams celebrated her first birthday with a party at the home of her grandparents.

Williams turned one on Oct. 29. Helping her celebrate were many relatives and friends.

She belongs to the Coyote Clan and is the daughter of the Alligator Clan and Kasetv Tribal Town; she belongs to the Muscogee and Kumeyaay tribes.

She and her parents, Shawn Williams and Nicole Green, reside at Valley Center, Calif.

She is the paternal granddaughter of Barton and Rita Williams of Wilson Community. Her maternal grandmother is Tilda Green of Valley Center.

Her great-grandfather is Thomas Berryhill Sr. of Wilson Community.



Williams

Willie Bummie James birthday party

KELLYVILLE — A birthday party will be held on Feb. 6 for Willie Bummie James at the Silver Dollar Ballroom from noon to 4 p.m.

Friends and relatives of James, a former Chilocco Indian School employee, are invited to help him celebrate his 80th birthday.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish.

Community briefs

Stompdance to be held in Okemah

OKEMAH — A stompdance will be held Jan. 23 at the Oklahoma National Guard in Okemah. A food sale will begin at 6 p.m. and the dance will begin at 7

p.m.

A cake walk, 50-50, door prizes, and raffles will be held. The dance is being held by Wesley Butler.

Weleetka man seeks traditional artists

WELEETKA — Maskoke potters and individuals that still make keco and kecvpe are being sought for inclusion in a book over cultural materials of the Oklahoma Maskoke and Seminole.

For more information, contact Perry Bowlegs at: Rt. 1, Box 4, Weleetka OK 74880.

Wewoka church to hold wild onion dinner

WEWOKA — Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church will hold an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner on Feb. 27.

The dinner will be held at Holdenville High School cafeteria located at 115 E. 9th.

Prices will be \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 12 and under.

January
allotee
birthdays

Jennie Bear
Jan. 3, 1904
Choctaw

Viola Phillips
Jan. 25, 1902
Fort Gibson

Ada Wolfe
Jan. 19, 1905
Depew

Willie Hansome
Jan. 27, 1905
Los Angeles, Calif.

Gladdys Bell
Jan. 20, 1904
Glenpool

Cogee Miller
Jan. 28, 1905
Wewoka

Obituaries

NANCY BEAVER

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services for Nancy Harjo Beaver were held Dec. 3 at Salt Creek United Methodist Church with Revs. Harry Long and Thomas Roughface and Elder Kelly Tiger officiating.

Wake services were held Dec. 1 at the Hudson-Phillips Chapel.

Beaver died Nov. 29 at Holdenville General Hospital. She was born March 3, 1903 to Lilla and Rhoda Scott Harjo in Yeager township, Indian Territory.

She was Aktayacvlke and a member Tukvpttee Tribal Town.

She was reared in the Salt Creek and Yeager communities. She attended Euchee Boarding School.

She married John Beaver in 1927. She lived in the Yeager and Salt Creek communities all of her life. She was the oldest resident in Yeager community as well as the oldest member of Salt Creek United Methodist Church. She was a member of: the United Methodist Women; Northeast District Senior Methodists; Holdenville Indian Community; and a past member of Yeager Home Demonstration Club. One of her favorite pastimes was quilting.

She is survived by: one son, Eugene Beaver of Holdenville; three daughters, Noreen Tiger, Cora Beaver, and Wanda Postoak, all of Holdenville; and two grandchildren, Colleen Larney of Oklahoma City and Kelly Tiger Jr. of Tulsa.

Interment was at Harjo Family Cemetery.

JOHNNY BILLY

YARDEKA — Funeral services for Johnny William Billy were held Sept. 28 at Yardeka Baptist Church with Revs. Judson Deere and Thompson Gouge officiating.

He died Sept. 24 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. Billy was born June 22, 1954 in Claremore to William and Nora Billy.

He was raised in Hanna and graduated from Hanna High School, later attending Connors State College. On April 7, 1979 he was married to Celia Mickey. Billy was a member of Hillabee Baptist Church in Hanna and was a Mason, Dustin lodge. He had been employed by the turnpike authority, Muscogee Nation Community Health Representatives, as well as various tribal towns. He was actively involved in community service also.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; a daughter, Melissa Billy; and a sister, Melissa Gouge.

Billy is survived by: his wife; two sons, Johnny Jr. and Jonathon; two daughters, Chastity and Kimberlee of the home; three brothers, Felix Gouge of Oklahoma City, Cecil Gouge of Tulsa, and Zerndorf Billy of Okemah; and two sisters, Sarah Wilson of Tulsa and Della Cherry of Holdenville.

Pallbearers were: Floyd Bales; Richard Beaver; Terry Lunsford; Woodrow Harjo; Willie Frye; and Buster Bear Jr.

Interment at the Harjo Family Cemetery.

LARRISSA HALE

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. — Funeral services for Larrissa Kendelle Hale were held Nov. 17 at the First

Assembly of God Church in Rock Springs, Wyo. with Rev. Jesse Ybarra officiating.

Wake services were held Nov. 15 in the home.

Hale died Nov. 13 at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born Nov. 5, 1998 to Anthony Hale and Tabatha Leveque of Rock Springs.

She is survived by: her parents; two brothers, Anthony Hale Jr. and Mark Hale; and one sister, Kaila Albiston, all of Rock Springs.

Pallbearers were her father and brothers.

Interment was at Rock Springs Municipal Cemetery.

GEORGE JESSE

SASAKWA — Funeral services for Rev. George Jesse were held Dec. 16 at Spring Baptist Church with Revs. Richard Pickup and Kellos Walker officiating.

Wake services were held Dec. 15 at Stout Chapel in Wewoka.

Jesse died Dec. 13. He was born Aug. 16, 1922 in Carson to Bunnie and Adeline Robinson Jesse.

Jesse attended school at Lamar, Cully, and Sasakwa where he played football, basketball, and softball.

He married Ruby Cully on Dec. 29, 1941 in Sasakwa. Jesse was a Veteran of World War II, having served in the Air Force.

Jesse was baptized on Aug. 21, 1948. He was ordained as pastor of Spring Baptist Church on Dec. 22, 1962, serving for 36 years until his death. He was a member of the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association for 25 years, having served as the director and moderator. He was a member of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma also.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; three brothers, Timmy, Ben, and Abe Burgess; and one sister, Juanita Burgess.

He is survived by: his wife of the home; two sons, Alex Jesse of the home and David Jesse of Okmulgee; one daughter, Linda Larney of Seminole; five sisters, Eliza Foster and Mary Ann Brown, both of Wewoka, Mattie Keys of Sasakwa, Della Bemo of Ponca City, and Amy Palmer of Konawa; one aunt, Ruth Robinson of Sand Springs; and grandchildren, George Jesse, Timothy Bunnie, Jennifer Jesse, and Sherrie, Susan, Julie, and James Larney.

Pallbearers were: Richard Palmer; Russell Bemo; Dale Jesse; Michael Palmer; Vic Burgess; Timothy Jesse; Farren Coody; Michael Oweing; James Cully; Mark Cully; Warren Bemo; and Ronnie Palmer. Honorary pallbearers were: Robert Wood; Eugene Harjo; David Lusty; Lloyd Harjo; Tommy Harris; Jimmie Keys; Gene Burgess; Legus Harjo; Leon Lusty; Robert Lusty; Jerry Harjo; Jimmie Harjo; Glen Sharp; Louis Factor Jr.; and Leon Postoak.

Interment was at Spring Church Cemetery.

PATRICIA LaSARGE

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Patricia Loraine LaSarge were held Dec. 15 at Okmulgee Baptist Church with Rev. Robert Washington officiating.

Wake services were held Dec. 13 at Kelley Funeral Home Chapel.

LaSarge died Dec. 11 in Tulsa. She was born Dec.

28, 1948 in Claremore to Lowley and Vera Littlebear Barnett. She graduated from Sapulpa High School and had resided in Sapulpa all of her life. She was a member of Okmulgee Baptist Church and worked for Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo.

She is survived by: her husband, Burban LaSarge of the home; two sons, Michael Hooper of Sapulpa and Steven Hooper of Natura; two daughters, Genell and Brandi LaSarge, both of Sapulpa; one brother, Charles Barnett of Bothel, Wash.; and one sister, Jerilyn Freeman of Sapulpa.

Interment was at Okmulgee Baptist Cemetery.

JOHN MANLEY

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for John Chenoskey Manley were held Jan. 2 at Yardeka Baptist Church with Rev. Bunny Hill officiating.

Wake services were held Jan. 1 at the church.

He died Dec. 28 at Stillwater Medical Center. Manley was born June 18, 1979 in Claremore to Hillis and Elizabeth Manley.

Manley had resided in Okmulgee for the majority of his life until moving to Stillwater two years ago.

He is preceded in death by: an uncle, John Al Thomas; and grandfather, George Manley.

He is survived by: his mother, Elizabeth Phillips, of Okmulgee; his father of Dewar; one brother, Wolfe Phillips of Okmulgee; four sisters, Wenona Bunny, Naomi Phillips, and Chenena Phillips, all of Okmulgee, and Senora Manley of Tulsa.

Pallbearers were: Wesley Butler Jr.; Ronnie Lowe; Billy Hill; Chebon Gouge; Farron Cully; and Rockey Lindsey.

Interment was in Yardeka Baptist Cemetery.

JACOB MARSHALL

CROMWELL — Funeral services for Rev. Jacob Marshall were held Nov. 30 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church with Revs. George Jesse and Fred Lindsey officiating.

Wake services were held Nov. 28 and 29 at Stout Chapel and Little Quarsarty, respectively.

Marshall died Nov. 26 at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. He born Sept. 5, 1910 to Lewis and Mandy Herron Marshall.

He was married to Nancy Chupco in February 1949. Marshall was a member and former pastor of Little Quarsarty and served as interim pastor of Salt Creek Baptist Church, Wetumka, also.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; four sisters; and two brothers.

He is survived by: his wife of the home; five daughters, Rosalee Marshall of the home, Diane Factor of Cromwell, Sema Marshall of Seminole, Pauline Levi of Midwest City, Nancy Nibs of Aberdeen, S.D., and Elsie Bruner of Bixby; one son, Famous Marshall of Okemah; one stepson, Robert Lena of Eufaula; and one granddaughter, Nanci Marshall of the home; four sisters, Mary Landsbury and Ruth Harjo, both of Wetumka, Christine Harjo of Salem, and Ella Herrod of Holdenville; three brothers, Paul Marshall of Wetumka, Jim Marshall of Shawnee, and George Marshall of Dustin; 19 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and host of relatives and friends.

Interment was at Little Quarsarty Cemetery.



The Muscogee Nation News

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February 1999, 12 pages



photo by Stephanie Barnett

Muscogee attorney Marcella Burgess Giles explained the class action settlement and answered questions regarding the claim form in a meeting held at the tribal capitol in late February.

Early March filing deadline for lease oil class action claim approaches

HOUSTON — Muscogee mineral owners have until March 5 to file a claim form for class action settlements against several oil companies.

The impetus for the settlement was several lawsuits that allege oil companies underpaid mineral owners for crude oil production between the years of 1986 through 1998.

Class members should have received notices of class action and claim forms labeled "Lease Oil Antitrust Litigation" in mid-January.

Some defendants (oil companies) have agreed to settle the lawsuits by paying \$164.2 million for the benefit of class members (mineral owners). Class members who received working interest payments from the settling defendants for more than 5,500 barrels of domestic crude oil from the period of Jan. 1, 1986 to Sept. 30, 1998 must file a claim in order to receive their share of the settlement if it is approved by the court. Class members who cannot trace their proportionate shares to a value of 5,500 over the last 12 years fall under small claims and should not file (unless payor was Apache or Phibro/Basis); they will automatically receive a calculated share.

All class members may:

- participate in the settlement, receive settlement benefits, and forego further claims against settling defendants;
- file written objections asking the court not to approve the proposed settlement and appear in person or through independent counsel to oppose any of the matters to be heard at the settlement hearing; or
- elect to be excluded from participation in the settlement class and receipt of any settlement class benefits while retaining individual legal claims against settling defendants in a separate lawsuit.

All claims and formal objections and exclusions must be postmarked by March 5.

The suit will be heard in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division on April 5.

Questions regarding the class action claim form may be directed to the settlement administrator at 1-800-446-8917.

For more on-line information on the settlement or to download a copy of the claim form, refer to www.leaseoil.com.

Church and community wild onion dinners in store for March

March 6

Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$6, adults; \$3 for children ages 10 and under

Location: from Taft and Hickory streets drive five miles south on Hickory Street

Salt Creek United Methodist Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$5, adults; \$3, children*

Location: Holdenville Indian Community Center, 224 E. Poplar

Tulsa Creek Indian Community Ladies Auxiliary

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost: \$6, adults; \$3 for children ages eight and under

Location: 8611 S. Union, Tulsa

Wewoka Hilltop First Indian Presbyterian Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$5, adult; \$2.50 for children ages 12 and under*

Location: Follow signs from Mekusuke Street at the south end of town

March 13

Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$6, adults; \$3, children

Location: 8500 E. 101st St., Tulsa

Big Cussetah United Methodist Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$6, adults; \$3 for children ages 12 and under*

Location: From Okmulgee, drive four miles east on U.S. Highway 62 and three and one-half miles south on Prairie Bell Road

March 27

Concharty United Methodist Church

Time: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$6, adults; \$4 for children ages 10 and under*

Location: from U.S. Highway 75 and state highway 16 drive 7.3 miles east, 3.9 miles north on Bixby Road, and one mile east

Muskogee Indian Community

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$5, adults; \$2 children ages eight and under

Location: 111 S. Virginia

*All-you-can-eat

Letters to the editor

Washington man seeks to contact relatives Editor:

I am a descendent of Lettie Thompson, roll number 8965. She was enrolled between 1898 and 1914. Her city of residence was Hitchete.

I have been researching my family history and would like to contact anyone who may be related to me. She had two sons, Thomas and Harry Edward Barlow.

H. Barlow was born in Kansas City, Mo. on June 11, 1900. He was my grandfather. Any help will be appreciated.

Contact me at: P.O. Box 156, Neah Bay, WA 98357; or e-mail, jamesb57@hotmail.com

James E. Barlow Jr., Neah Bay, Wash.

Investment company commends chief Editor:

In review of the investment results in the Muscogee Nation Permanent Fund, the performance to date is really very good and I hope the National Council members are pleased.

With the passage of two and a half years since we started, and with the results so far, I just wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver for the vision and the courage it took to make the important step of providing modern, professional management of the tribe's investment funds.

The step he has taken has provided returns to the permanent fund at an annual rate of 22.9 percent for the entire fund. The common stock portion of the account has averaged 33.97 percent annually and the bond portion has averaged 9.06 percent annualized. These numbers, for the period ending Dec. 31, 1998, speak very clearly for themselves.

The staff at Tom Johnson Investment Management, led by President Jerry Wise — who manages the tribal account — are outstanding investment managers in our opinion, and I know they enjoy serving the people of the great Muscogee Nation.

Once again, I congratulate Chief Beaver on the effective leadership he is giving to your people.

W. Kenneth Bonds, Oklahoma City

Editor's note: Bonds is the senior vice president of investments at VonFeldt and Associates, Inc.

Legal notices

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 2, February 1999

In the matter of Summer Golden, born Aug. 21, 1985, minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV 98-05

Notice of hearing to the unknown father of Summer Golden.

You are hereby given notice of an adjudication-dispositional hearing on the above-styled and numbered case in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, tribal complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 5th day of March, 1999 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to

Committee of Osten grateful for support Editor:

As construction begins on the Muskoke Veterans' Commemorative Monument, the Committee of Osten would like to thank all of those who helped to bring this project to fruition.

Grateful appreciation is extended to: the Muscogee National Council, who gave full support to our requests; Dr. Leola Taylor, for her efforts to secure grants; *The Muscogee Nation News*; and special thanks is extended to Council Representative A.D. Ellis, for his submission of bills for our financing. Rep. Abe McIntosh also came through for us at a critical time in the saving of our funds.

The Committee of Osten anticipates the completion of the monument and grounds before May 15, which is the date set for the dedication.

Willis Granite Products Co. has designed a beautiful obelisk and grounds and we know that Linda Willis, who is Muscogee, was eager to have a meaningful tribute to veterans constructed. Again, our grateful thanks.

Jorene Coker, Preston; Phillip Coon, Sapulpa; and Charlie Coker, Muskogee

Editor's note: J. Coker, Coon, C. Coker, and the late Monroe Sulphur are the Committee of Osten.

Citizen feels clinic merger for the worst Editor:

My subject of complaint is the combining of the general medical clinics of Okemah Indian Clinic and Creek Nation Community Hospital.

How is this better and more efficient for its clients? Walk through the front door then discover for yourself: Indians lined accordingly — some without seats; overcrowding; the wait longer than usual; and a lot of confusion at the front desk.

It took me almost an hour to see the doctor, not to mention my chart was lost. This was a six month check up and no one knew why I was there! Two weeks before this, the pharmacy was closed for two weeks requiring Indians in need go to different area pharmacies — my prescriptions were not filled.

As usual, this good improvement keeps the Indians on the road and waiting in line. Whose great plan does this belong to?

Larry P. Harjo, Bristow

be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 1, February 1999.

In the matter of K.F., born Aug. 12, 1983, minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV 96-26

Notice of hearing to Donald Alan Ford, father of K.F.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, tribal complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 15th day of March, 1999 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the court and custody be continued in the children

and family services administration for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 1, February 1999

In the matter of T.D.W., born Oct. 23, 1993, minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV 97-04

Notice of hearing to: Christopher Linker; Lamont Ousley; Lemonte Ousley; unknown father; and father of T.D.W.

You are hereby given notice of an adjudication-dispositional hearing on the above styled and numbered cases in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, tribal complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 15th day of March, 1999 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of February, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the Jan. 30 quarterly session.

Speaker Kenneth Childers conducted the meeting and did not vote.

The Council voted unanimously (25-0) to let stand the principal chief's veto of National Council Act 98-127, an ordinance approving an uplink agreement with Mega Bingo, Inc.

Voting yes were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **David Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **George Tiger**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

In Council business it:

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-01, authorizing the principal chief to negotiate land purchases in the Okmulgee District and authorizing an appropriation

for the related cost at \$7,500;

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-07, requesting supplemental funding for the Head Start program for debts accrued at \$12,700;

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-10, creating a business enterprise of the Muscogee Nation, establishing a board of



photo by Stephanie Barnett

Council Representative Barbara Gillespie, tribal citizen Valeria Littlecreek, and Cultural Preservation Manager Joyce Bear visit with National Indian Gaming Commission General Counsel Barry Brandon, second from left.



photo by Stephanie Barnett

National Indian Gaming Commission Chair Montie Deer visits with National Council staff member Lisa Deere during a dinner held in his honor by the National Council. Deer and Brandon, both Muscogee tribal citizens, were in Tulsa for a NIGC compliance workshop in January.

directors of the enterprise and defining the purpose and powers of the enterprise and its directors. The

creation of the enterprise qualifies it for certification as a participant under the Small Business Act. Sec-

tion 8 (A);

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-12 authorizing and approving funds for Kialegee Etlwv in the amount of \$4,765. It is converting 1,200 square feet of its building for supervised study and recreational activities for Wetumka Indian Community youth. The

funds will be used to purchase and install a fire escape;

- voted unanimously (25-0) to table NCA 99-14, repealing NCA 93-12, removing the obligation to provide security guard services to the Nation's business enterprises from the lighthorse administration and authorizing said enterprises to otherwise obtain security guard services. The bill was tabled pending further review and amendments;

- voted (20-5) to table NCA 99-18, requesting the principal chief to create a senior citizen department plan of implementation to the National Council;

voting no were: **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and **Tiger**, Creek;

- approved unanimously (25-0)

NCA 99-19, authorizing the execution of an uplink with Mega Bingo, Inc.;

- approved unanimously (25-0) Tribal Resolution 99-03, confirming Curtis Ray Hicks as deputy director of the division of tribal affairs;

Hicks is a tribal citizen residing in Mason;

- approved unanimously (25-0) TR 99-04, supporting the Nuyaka Homecoming Association and Historic Society, Inc. The incorporation formed with the objective of preserving Nuyaka Indian Mission and educating the public regarding its history; and

- approved unanimously (25-0) TR 96-06, authorizing the executive branch to submit a proposal to the Administration for Native Americans for funding to develop a strategic planning document for the tribe.

In other business the Council:

- approved unanimously (25-0) TR 99-08, approving the selection of contractors for development and major rehabilitation work for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma and authorizing the housing authority to execute contracts for such development and major rehabilitation work;

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-09, creating a senior services department under the administrative branch of the Muscogee Nation. The department's primary mission is to develop and coordinate community based systems for services for all older persons within the Muscogee Nation; and

- approved unanimously (25-0) NCA 99-17, amending NCA 95-81 — establishing a motor vehicle code — and establishing a special fee for veterans' tags. Special fees include the following categories: disabled veterans, \$11.50; winners of selected medals for heroism in combat, \$5; and past or present prisoners of war, no cost. The Council appropriated and authorized the spending of \$3,000 from motor vehicle registration revenues for the purchase of the special tags.

National Council schedule

Planning sessions will commence at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays prior to the regular/quarterly National Council session. Quarterly/regular sessions will commence at 10 a.m. in the Independent Agencies (mound) Building Auditorium with the preagenda session commencing at 9 a.m. in the Council chambers, located in the mound building.

Planning Session — March 23
Regular Session — March 27

Planning Session — April 20
Regular Session — April 24

Planning Session — May 25
Regular Session — May 29

Planning Session — June 22
Regular Session — June 26

Planning Session — July 27
Regular Session — July 31

Planning Session — Aug. 24
Regular Session — Aug. 28

Planning Session — Sept. 21
Regular Session — Sept. 25

Planning Session — Oct. 26
Regular Session — Oct. 30

Planning Session — Nov. 16
Regular Session — Nov. 20

Planning Session — Dec. 14
Regular Session — Dec. 18

Sacred medicine culture of the Mvskoke people

by David Lewis Jr.

While I have given many lectures to classes about our medicine people, I have never talked or shared of our sacred medicine culture to my people.

These things were given to us by the Creator. This is the consensus given by the more notable medicine people. Convictions such as these have their roots in a mystic past the predates history. There is no such premise or idea that the medicine people tried this or tried that until something worked. Knowledge of songs and herbs were either handed down or revealed by vision.

The use of medicine was a dominate force in the life-style and in the ceremonial rituals of the ancient Mvskoke people. It is said that knowledge and the use of songs and herbs, to some limited extent, was practiced by the majority of the old Mvskokvike long ago. There was medicine for nearly everything that affected Indian people such as: health; physical strength; mental well-being; peace; social well-being; family and home well-being; war; and even important speaking. All things that influenced life and death were dealt with sacredly and religiously through the God-given powers of the medicine ways.

The main *helishaya* (medicine man or woman)

This medicine person was the highest in status among the medicine people. The man or woman that held this position commanded the greatest respect. This person was chosen or observed from an early age and as the child developed, he or she tutored and if need be, disciplined. Contrary to modern belief, the Mvskoke medicine people did not have medicine schools for group instruction.

Some of the qualities looked for in the child were good temperament, prone to fairness and good judgement, seriousness, and an exceptional ability to understand. The child in this category was generally gifted and possessed certain mystic or psychic abilities which allowed diagnostic insights — then he or she could be an *owvly* (prophet) or a *kervv* (one that knows). This child could either be born with this gift or the ability could be developed as the child grew under the supervision of the medicine person. This status of a medicine person was usually inherited through the family. Additionally, there were provisions when there was no family to continue the status.

A main *helishaya* was generally consulted by the lesser classes of medicine people. They were, for the most part, not active in social or ceremonial-ritual affairs of the Mvskoke people, but maintained a rigorous, disciplined life-style in order that the powers of his or her gifts would be effective for the people they served.

One of the main aspects of qualifications in this class was that of special initiation. After having completed the instruction and rigors of preparations, the candidate would then go through the special initiation which authorized his or her place as a medicine person in this class. Now the potential was confirmed into mystic abil-

ity and he or she would be responsible to their calling which would be fulfilled sometime in their lives.

The carrier

The medicine person in this category is one that has acquired medicine knowledge through their own interest and may be a learner or a disciple of a main *helishaya*. Their knowledge may also be developed by seeking knowledge from other medicine people. A carrier may also possess the unique mystic qualities that were generally associated with the main *helishaya*. They may or may not be associated with the ceremonial grounds or with a Christian church. There is no initiation in this category, but, in all cases, in order to foster the positive well-being of the people they serve they must seek to live as purely as possible. This is the ideal standard for all medicine people.

The specialist

This category also commands a unique respect in that this person's knowledge and serious life-style affects the well-being of the ceremonial grounds and its people. The responsibility of the pure performance or rituals invoking powers for the well-being of the grounds itself and its people is given into his hands by inheritance or selection. Unlike the role of the other categories, this position is occupied by males only. He had to be thoroughly versed in the ways of a particular ceremonial ground. He must know all rituals, medicines and songs associated with that ground. He can be a carrier also and may perform extra curricularly to his duties for the grounds.

How the Mvskoke got their main medicines

Long ago, there was a great holy man who lived some distance from a tribal town of our people. It is said that the people did not know where he came from nor did they inquire. This holy man, they say, was very powerful for he could make people well by touching them with his hands.

It was the custom of the Mvskoke people to meet the needs of their holy men. They would bring food, care for his garden, and repair or build his house — whatever he needed to be done was the duty of the people to the holy man. This was done out of love and great respect.

One day as he was passing through the village he noticed a young boy. The holy man had seen that this boy was mistreated and was an outcast. He also knew that this boy was the kind of person that could learn the sacred ways that the holy man must pass on. So that old man took the boy to teach him the medicine ways and the sacred ways.

The time came when the old man said that he had to go away. And so the time came when one last time they would sit and talk like they had done many times before. The old man recounted many things to the boy and what he must do. The old man was sitting where he always sat when he would tell the boy of good things, even funny things, but most of all, very serious, sacred teachings. He said that if the boy was troubled at any time he should remember that he would always be with him and to come back to where they sat and talked and he would find the answer there and everything would be all right. This was very sad for the old man but he was happy also for he had taught the boy and had him to take his place. Now it was necessary for him to leave; his work was done. As their day together came to an end, the birds and the little things that make noises

seemed to sound very lonesome. The old man bowed his head and began to cry; he shed great tears, they fell to the ground and made a pool. The old man held up his hand to the East and said, "this is the blood of life." The blood fell to the ground and made a small pool. His life was on the ground in tears and blood, only a great love and sadness would make this happen. They said goodbye and the holy man left. The boy wanted to go with him so he ran after him but could not find him. He tried to find his tracks but the old man left none.

Red root and white medicine

Days went by and the boy helped the people with his powers and shared many sacred ways with them. One day the people became ill with a very bad illness. The boy tried to heal them by touching them with his hands. This did not work. The people became increasingly ill. The boy became very troubled and remembered what the holy man had told him so he returned to the place where the old man had lived and to the place where they had sat before the old man went away. The old place was still familiar; recalling old times, the boy felt like the old man was still there. But there was something different about the place where his blood had fallen to the ground. From the pool of his blood grew a bush that roots turned the water red. The roots of the bush that grew from the tears made the water clear or white. The boy knew that the old man was with him for in his spirit he knew he was to use these sacred plants. He prepared himself and the medicines. He then took the medicines and cured the people of the great illness. These medicines still remain sacred and are used by the Mvskoke people.

Because he was a great holy man that passed through the tribal towns of the people and lived a distance from them, his name was Mekkohoyanitca or king passing through. The bush or the roots that grew from his blood is called by the same name today and is commonly known to the Mvskoke people as red root.

The sacred bush and its roots that grew from the holy man's tears is called *helishutke* or white medicine. This medicine is known to non-Indians as American Ginseng.

To conclude this legend, I believe it is highly important to correlate a parallel of amazing coincidence which would signify the spiritual importance of our legend.

The Christian Bible tells of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Son of God, holy man. The story goes that this holy man, who also healed by touching with his hands, shed his blood at this time through suffering and sorrow. When he died, the blood from his pierced hands fell to the Earth. The soldier pierced his side and water ran out of that wound. It is said that he dies of a broken heart under extreme sorrow and pain. So we can say that his blood and the tears of his heart undoubtedly fell to the Mother Earth to give life to all — peace, healing, and all well-being as told in the sacred Mvskoke legend.

The red root, when used in water, turns the water red the color of blood. This was derived from the blood of the ancient Mvskoke holy man which was the blood of life. Jesus Christ's blood was for the life of the people.

The white medicine root, when placed in water, remains as clear as water. This was from the tears of the ancient Mvskoke holy man, which was the water of sor-



Lewis

Alex Posey; first modern Native American success

by Gerald Wofford

In January we looked at Chitto Harjo, a man known for tribal sovereignty and the old, traditional way of life. It is interesting to note that at the beginning of the 20th century, the Muscogee (Creek), and Indians in general, faced monumental life-style choices. On one side was the old, traditional way of life and men like Chitto Harjo who passionately held on to it.

On the other side was the new and progressive Indian — such as Muscogee Poet, Journalist, and Humorist Alexander Posey — who believed that to live successfully was to make it in the white man's world. The progressive Indian believed that this required full entrainment in the white man's doctrine — educational system, work ethic, and religion — to make a living in a new world. It truly was a major social change for a group of people.



Alex Posey

Whether American Indians realize it or not, it is this social change at the beginning of this century, that has evolved the contemporary Indian into what he is. Ask any American Indian who is successful in business, politics, or any other profession. Their resumes tout extensive backgrounds in higher education and formal training. Indians who have not sought out professional careers know the importance of basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. We are who we are today because of the changes made less than 100 years ago.

It is to the American Indian's credit to have prospered in this new world. With the passing of each decade, Indians have learned and bettered themselves in fields such as education, medicine, and law. Education obtained by Indian peoples has been used to fight prejudice and uphold treaties.

Perhaps many saw this opportunity as a way of fighting back at the white man — beating him at his own game, if you will. If the only way to make it was to learn the white man's ways, then many Indians were resolved to do just this.

Many Indians saw great success in the first decades and were prepared for what lay ahead. The great athlete, Jim Thorpe, stunned the world with two Olympic gold medals at the 1912 Stockholm games and was declared the 'world's greatest' athlete of the first half-century by national sports writers. Thorpe is also one of the founding fathers of the National Football League.

Indian Territory's Five Civilized Tribes attempted to establish their boundaries as a federally recognized state. It was absolutely unheard of, especially an effort by Indians, but it was an organized and educated move. If it would have come to pass, the Indian state of Sequoia would have bordered present day Oklahoma.

War was ahead for this country. The Indians saw themselves fully involved in world affairs. Right or wrong — because of strict military-like training in Indian boarding schools — many Indian students were prepared when faced with the choice of serving their country. It has been documented that because of the enormous show of American Indian volunteers in World War I, the American Indian was officially granted U.S. citizenship in 1921.

Indians had grown socially and adapted well to the new world. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was in tune with the new world as well. In fact, one of the first Native Americans who embodied the 'new world Indian' was Posey.

Posey's Indian Journal, The first American Indian-owned newspaper, is still in circulation in Eufaula. Posey was the editor of this newspaper, as well as the Muskogee Evening Times. He also served as superintendent of the Eufaula and Wetumka Boarding Schools as well as the Creek Orphan Asylum. When the state of Sequoia was being organized, Posey served as secretary of the convention. He also played a vital role in organizing tribal members to receive land allotments in preparation for statehood. This incredible man would also serve his tribe by being elected as a Tuskegee representative to the House of Warriors, the legislative body of the Muscogee Nation.

He was born on Aug. 3, 1873 in a remote section of the Muscogee Nation known as the Tulladega Hills, about fifteen miles northwest of Eufaula. His mother was Muscogee-Chickasaw and a member of Tuskegee Tribal Town. His father was non-Indian, but had lived in the Muscogee Nation since early childhood, spoke Creek fluently, and was a member, probably by adoption, of Broken Arrow Tribal Town.

Posey spoke only the Maskoke language when he was young. His father insisted that he speak English and set him on a course of English education when he was fourteen. This took him to the boarding school at Eufaula and to Bacone College in nearby Muskogee.

Posey was not only a journalist, but a poet, also. Many of his writings were published nationally. It was in newspapers, though, that he became known for the popular *Fu's Fixico Letters*. The letters provided the mainstream populace a somewhat satirical look at local and state politics, land allotments, and other civic events through the eyes of a mythical Maskoke full-blood. His letters drew national attention with many east-

ern newspapers printing them. Posey even exposed a scandal involving federal officials in Indian Territory. With journalistic and poetic talents thriving Posey was, during his time, the most significant American Indian writer alive.

Posey, like Chitto Harjo, realized times were changing for the Muscogee Indian. Like Harjo, Posey felt he knew the right direction for the Muscogee to take.

In 1904 he went to work for the federal bureaucracy, first as a translator, and then as a field worker for the Creek enrolling division of the Dawes Commission. He travelled through Muscogee Territory documenting existing tribal rolls and enrolling Creeks who had failed or refused to be enrolled and receive land allotments.

Posey saw this as a new chance for the Muscogee Nation — a chance to make a new life and become independent. When speaking with citizens of the unique opportunities provided by allotment, most listened and accepted the new destiny. Chitto Harjo and others like him did not readily accept him or this new way of life.

The coming change was inevitable. By governmental law, the land was to be allotted. Manifest destiny had started long before land allotment. There was nothing any Muscogee citizen could do to change that. Perhaps Posey saw it his duty to guide fellow Maskokvke into the new world — to usher them in as painlessly as possible. Whatever the reason, it was much better for a fellow citizen who spoke the language to help in this critical time.

After the enrollment and allotment books were closed, Posey returned to his writing and resumed editorship of *The Indian Journal*. This was short-lived. On May 27, 1908 he died in a drowning accident at the age of 34.

Posey, as most Indians have done in the past and present, lived in two worlds.

It is true that he had mastered the white man's world. Posey never forgot about being Indian though. In this time of change, some Indians were frowned upon and even insulted for supposedly 'selling out.'

He genuinely loved his people. Perhaps it was because of this love that Posey achieved the things he did — helping his people into the new century and being an example to others. Through education and service to his tribe, Posey was a successful 20th century Indian — successful in the white man and Indian's world.

Nominees for outstanding citizens sought

Throughout 1999 *The Muscogee Nation News* will spotlight a Muscogee person who has made an impact in the areas of promoting community welfare, tribal rights and sovereignty, cultural responsibility, and arts and entertainment during the last 100 years.

Throughout the year, *The MNN* requests that tribal citizens submit nominations for someone they feel is the Muscogee (Creek) Citizen of the Century. These individuals can range from tribal politicians, traditional, community, and church leaders to veterans and educators.

Accompany each nomination with a short paragraph explaining why this person is deserving of that distinction. In December *The MNN* will announce the Citizen of the Century and the top nominees.

Medicine

continued from page 4

row and compassion as was the same for the tears of Jesus Christ.

With all our boasted knowledge, we have to admit the American Indians in the so called primitive state — unskilled in letters, without any knowledge of anatomy or chemistry, as you and I understand today — prevented and cured many diseases with simple songs and herbs which baffles the best effect of medical schools.

The use of songs and herbs to release many forms of sickness and disease is a time tested practice by our forefathers.

Indian Territory's Five Civilized Tribes attempted to establish their boundaries

Chief Beaver: State of the Nation address

Good morning. Thank you for attending this first National Council meeting of 1999. It is with great expectations for the future and appreciation for the opportunity of serving as your principal chief for the last three years, that I bring you the annual State of the Muscogee Nation address. It is truly an honor to be here this morning.

Honorable Speaker [Kenneth] Childers, Second Speaker [Bill] Fife, National Council members, members of the judicial branch, Creek citizens, tribal employees and honored guests, I greet you this morning as I deliver to this session of the National Council the annual state of State of the Nation address.

For the third year of my term, I am glad to report to you that the State of the Muscogee Nation is progressive and ready for the challenges of the new millennium.

Nineteen ninety-eight has been a challenging, yet rewarding year for the tribe....

The Tribe has made significant progress in all areas that affect us — education, economic development, health, and the general welfare. There have been great challenges and potential barriers from both within the tribal government and outside, but I am happy to say that in spite of these barriers, we have stood strong and continued to move ahead in a progressive direction and complete our goals with the resources we have available to us.

In this year of my administration I have been very pleased to see that many of the goals and visions I had when I became your principal chief have been realized and are now fully implemented. Of course these priorities did not come about overnight or without the team work and effort of the tribal administration and legislative branch working hard together. This past year has, as always, been a team effort and I thank all branches of government, employees, and citizens for your spirit of cooperation.

Employees, in the past I have appealed to you to demonstrate a greater degree of cooperation and enthusiasm for your jobs in serving the needs of our citizens and reminded you that service to our citizens is our mission. Again this year, I am happy to say that overall, you did not disappoint me. You are to be commended for your fine efforts and I ask that you continue in serving citizens with professionalism and courtesy. Thank you and continue your efforts for there is still much improvement to be made in this area.

This fiscal year, for the first time in four years, we were able to give the employees at least a three percent cost of living raise. I thank the National Council for their legislative support of this action.

Again, this year, on the National front we have not fared very well in the 105th Congress. It has been essential that I make trips to our nation's capitol to speak one-on-one with our congressional delegation and with the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning proposed budget cuts to Indian programs, and out and out attacks upon our tribal sovereignty! In spite of these setbacks in maintaining operations of our federally-funded programs and preserving our right to self-government and self-determination, we, at least for the present, defeated again this year destructive budget riders such as the Istook Amendment, taxation, and land into trust. However, a potentially disastrous

amendment did pass and I am speaking about Senator Slade Gorton's legislation on means testing.

Our newly elected Assistant Secretary to Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, appointed me to be on the Tribal Priority Allocation Task Force and we have been meeting every other month for a week in Washington to come up with a strategy to address the means testing issue. As we have done with all anti-Indian legislation, the tribal leaders who make up the task force have taken a hardline, pro-active approach and through the unified voice of many tribal leaders, we hope to prevail in this critical issue which affects all Indian tribes. The ramifications of this means testing again proves that we can never afford to let down our guard on the intrusion into our sovereign rights. We must be vigilant in our stance with our national lawmakers and let our voices be heard and presence felt if we are to continue to hold the line against anti-Indian attacks at the highest levels of government.

I had been invited to give testimony during the infamous Istook hearings on his bill H.R. 1168 held this summer in Washington. In a room full of congressman and senators, petroleum special interest groups, and anti-Indian lobbyists, I was among only three tribal leaders across the country who were asked to attend to give rebuttal testimony on Istook's disastrous legislation which would involve dual taxation on Indian tribal government lands and would restrict the Secretary of Interior from taking land into trust for the benefit of a tribe unless the tribe enters into a tax agreement with state and local governments. Rep. Istook has assured everyone that he plans to revive this damaging legislation in the 106th Congress.

Also, I had the privilege to be appointed by Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Gover to another national board — the Department of the Interior Self-Governance Advisory Committee. This committee was formed to provide advice and recommendations to the assistant secretary on issues impacting self-governance tribes, of which the Creek Nation is one of the first original tier tribes in self-governance.

Through these appointments, the Muscogee Creek Nation has had a voice at the National level on issues that are continuing to shape the future for not only this tribe but for all Indian Nations.

I was also asked to be a part of the historic American Indian Leaders Committee of the Democratic National Committee. This committee and the creation of the first Indian desk at the Democratic National Committee have been historic milestones in our history and have provided us with an opportunity to take our rightful place within a major political party as a political force and to have our voices finally heard on national issues. I am very proud to have been selected to be a part of it.

I have also served as chairman of the Five Civilized Tribes Intertribal Council and just this month have relinquished that position to [Principal Chief Jerry] Haney of the Seminole Nation. The Intertribal Council has a lot of clout and respect on the national front with other tribal leaders. I have felt honored to have served in this key position in representing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the other four tribes as well.

Some of the major accomplishments to date of our

major programs and services of the tribal government include: the opening of the tribal travel plaza which opened this past September — this project has been long anticipated and we are happy to say that business is booming. The travel plaza has a payroll of approximately \$248,393 and employs 25 employees, the majority of which are tribal citizens. That's what we are accomplishing — putting Creek citizens to work. We are looking at expanding our travel plazas into other areas of the Creek Nation as well.

In 1997, one of the tribe's major accomplishments was the enactment of a motor fuels ordinance which enabled us to increase our tribal revenue through taxation on motor fuels (House Bill 2208). I am proud to announce that our revenues for this fiscal year from the Oklahoma Tax Commission was \$1.8 million. We only anticipated \$1.6 million from our fuel compact.

However, as I have mentioned earlier, there have been some barriers to tribal progress — namely the enactment of legislation that I feel is clearly unconstitutional. National Council Act 98-02: which provides for revenue sharing of proceeds from the Okmulgee travel plaza with the Okmulgee Indian Community. As principal chief and as mandated by the Constitution, of which I took an oath to uphold, I vetoed this piece of destructive legislation, but the National Council overrode my veto and now the travel plaza which is the Creek Nation must pay 10 percent of its gross tobacco sales to an entity of the Creek Nation — a chartered community whose charter clearly states that the Creek Nation Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The end result of this unconstitutional act is that the Muscogee Nation itself is prevented from earning revenue which would benefit all tribal citizens.

Also, through pursuing an aggressive investment policy, the permanent fund has earned \$2.85 million on an original investment of \$8.7 million. This is a rate return of 32.75 percent since the placement of these funds in the hands of the present investment managers. We have an investment of \$8.7 million with the current market at \$11,549,603 at a gain of \$2,849,603 at a rate of 32.75 percent.

I am also very proud to say that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has again received the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting this year. The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

I would like this time, to commend the National Council for their passage of the 1998-99 comprehensive annual budget. It was presented by the administration in a timely manner and enacted into law during the September Council meeting, which for the first time in several years, brought us right on target for the fiscal year. Also, I would like to commend our new controller, James Pratt, on the fine job he has been doing for the tribe.

Nineteen ninety-eight has been another banner year for the Creek Nation child care program — this program just continues to accomplish great goals that benefit the tribal government and its citizens! The child care center, with 12,552 square feet, which houses the child care offices, provider-training center, and accommodates children six weeks to 12 years of age,

was completed this past year. Also, the Holdenville child care center opened in June so we now have child care centers in Okmulgee and Holdenville with the Eufaula center to open this month. Yardeka center is scheduled for completion in March and groundbreaking ceremonies were held in November for the new child care training center in Sapulpa, with completion scheduled for May. Okemah, Checotah, and Tulsa center plans are also underway with completion dates set for April. We are also researching other sites within the Creek Nation boundaries to open child care centers. By this time next year, we are hoping to have a new child care center in each one of our eight county jurisdictional area.

The office of child care is truly a success story, for it was established in 1996 with 12 staff members and now it employs 65 staff members and serves 582 families totaling 1050 children on the certificate program. They anticipate opening thirty new jobs within this coming year. The manager of the office of child care, Janet Wise, also serves as the chairperson for the National Indian Child Care Association and has since 1992.

Our Head Start programs continue to flourish under its new director, Pat Wind, and we have a new Head Start Center in Graham.

In the future, it is my goal to establish a better collaboration between the child care and the Head Start program.

I am very excited to announce that social services client requests have gone down this year by three percent. That means that, as was our goal, we have aggressively pursued economic development opportunities such as the travel plaza and other revenue generating activities to bring employment to our people and it has worked! We are putting Creek citizens to work, and as a result, there is less need for social service assistance. We have made tremendous strides in this area — economic development along with education and jobs takes care of social services and health issues — our citizens will have less dependency on the Nation for those things because they have job opportunities.

I would also like to welcome aboard the new health administration director, Leonard Harjo. Under his leadership, the health administration is progressing in a positive direction with improvements being made to ensure quality delivery of health services to their clients. They were recently funded for a diabetes program which is primarily educational, but the funds have provided some expansion in optometry services at Okemah. Also, Mr. Harjo has informed me that the community health representatives are now being trained in diabetic preventive procedures which will greatly enhance diabetic care among our citizens and clients.

The higher education department has told me that everyone who applied for a higher education scholarship got one and that is great news for our goal of providing a quality education for our citizens!

In other positive developments for the tribe, our community centers at Weleetka, Sapulpa, and Twin Hills are progressing, with some of these centers in their final construction phase. Holdenville Indian Community is being reopened.

Also, speaking of tribal progress, I would like to encourage the National Council to work with the executive branch to improve the Mackey Sandbar since an agreement was reached with the City of Tulsa on

the Riverside Drive extension. A feasibility study needs to be done on the maximum usage of this valuable piece of tribal property.

I recently signed into law three pieces of legislation which have created much needed programs: environmental services department; office of tribal grant compliance program; and grant compliance. In order to fulfill our obligation as recipient of Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act funds, four new jobs have been created through the development of these new departments; NAHASDA is now the responsibility of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

In spite of the negative light that the mainstream media has shed on our tribal tag programs, it is still an exercise in sovereignty and self government — for the right of any government is taxation to generate revenues to benefit its people. I am glad to say that our tribal tag program is still progressing in spite of lack of acceptance of tribal tags by the State of Oklahoma and lack of legal remedies for the tribe to enforce motor vehicle laws in regard to drivers licenses, expired tags, tags on wrong vehicles and so forth. Tax Commissioner Mike Factor reports that in fiscal year 1997, profits from the sales of tribal tags were \$142,235.77 and are now \$749,126.98. We are moving ahead in spite of outside obstacles and internal problems associated with the sale of tribal tags.

In the area of gaming revenues, the National Council, in an effort to insure that gaming revenues benefit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, has approved and appropriated the gaming revenue for the 1998 budget as follows: [this information was compiled by our Gaming Commissioner Sharon Franz]

- 38 percent of the net gaming revenues are allocated to the office of the principal chief, office of the election board, citizenship board, gaming operations authority board, Eufaula Boarding School Board, and the office of public gaming;
- 12 percent goes to supplement the tribal attorney general's office;
- four percent of the gaming revenues are used for the Headstart program;
- five percent supports the tribal burial program, emergency hardship program, tribal energy assistance, and food purchases for tribal members;
- eight percent supplements the cultural preservation for ceremonial grounds, extracurricular student activity fund, and community development fund;
- two percent supplements the tribal commodities program for staff operations;
- 31 percent is expended on social programs such as family preservation, child care and development, annual school clothing for tribal children, Indian child Welfare and children and family services.

This means the gaming revenues have, this past year, provided supplemental funding for: a new Head Start center; a new child care center; a volunteer tribal fire fighting team which was called to fight fires in California, Florida, and Virginia to name a few; a tribal omnplex with ball fields, track, and rodeo arena; and the preservation of tribal culture and traditions including the Greencorn ceremonials and preservation library.

I am also very happy to announce that a very important tribal project — the Muscogee War Memorial is progressing very well. The ground preparation is currently underway west of the administration building and the contract has been set on the granite work

for the memorial and a dedication date has been set for May 15 on Armed Forces Day. I would like to express my gratitude to Second Chief George Almerigi and the Committee of Four — Jorene and Charlie Coker, Phillip Coon, and the late Monroe Sulphur for their dedication and hard work in turning this vision of honoring our Muscogee (Creek) veterans, past, present, and future, into a reality. A Special Plaque will be erected to honor those Muscogee warriors killed in action.

As far as technological advances, the Tribe now has Internet — this is a revolutionary resource for us and we are all very proud of this accomplishment. But we are still working to bring all the chartered communities on line with the the Creek Nation. We are preparing for the Y2K bug!

These are just some of the notable achievements of the tribe and our administration for 1998. The progress of each of our programs and services, in greater detail, are available in the quarterly report that the Council has before them today.

An overall profile of the tribal government to date includes a tribal enrollment at 45,220 citizens, with the citizenship board enrolling new citizens every day.

The Tribal government employs a skilled work force of 463 active full and part time employees that are processed by the personnel department; there are 300 employed at the three tribal bingo facilities and 300 at the health administration.

We have tribal land holdings of 5,649.527 acres of trust land, 326.119 acres of unallotted lands, and during this past year, we have fee land (39.950 acres) pending application for trust status. For our tribal programs, we have 69 facilities totaling 480,611 square feet of office and building space which all totals to an estimated dollar value of \$9,217,330.

Nineteen ninety-eight has been a challenging but rewarding year, and no doubt 1999 will be also. In nearing the end of my four-year term, I have not looked at our progress as winding down, but as gearing up for the next millennium and what an exciting time for the tribe. I anticipate even greater growth and a stronger Nation as we enter the new age with anticipation and enthusiasm to be even better than we are now and to rise to meet any challenge that we might encounter. I truly hope that you are as excited as I am for the next millennium.

My goals for the coming year are the same overall as they were last year, with emphasis on greater educational and employment opportunities for tribal citizens.

One of the things I hope will happen is a better working relationship with the tribal towns — we have been meeting all year with them and are hopeful of a mutual resolution of all issues — after all, we are all citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Another major area that I want to work on is getting legislation enacted to establish a trade and commerce authority that will assist the tribe in its economic development endeavors. Our plan is to go for Small Business Administration 8(a) status, which will give us the opportunity to procure government contracts.

I cannot emphasize enough that the executive branch and the legislative branch needs to work together on every issue — for all issues directly or indirectly affect you, the citizens of this Nation. Let us

Programs-notices

Election board to register Creek citizens

DALLAS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board will register Creek citizens and update addresses of voters at the Dallas Indian Center located at 209 E. Jefferson Blvd., Oak Cliff area of Dallas on March 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registered Muscogee Nation voters must declare a voting district in order to be eligible to vote.

The following registered voters have not declared a voting district: Harold Doc Berryhill; Corsicana, Texas; Donald Charles Bird, Oklahoma City; Monroe Bird Sr., Oklahoma City; Monroe Bird Jr., Oklahoma City; Josephine Brown, Catoosa; Agnes Belle Carr, Lawton; Tony George Chesnutt, Yukon; Margaret Lou Chuculate, Sallisaw; Rhoda Estherline Cooper, Mesa, Ariz.; Eunice Cully, Konawa; Tod Verde Dickey, Phoenix, Ariz.; Ken William, Phoenix, Ariz.; Dixon McIntosh Gray, Jones; Linda Jeanne Gruno, Aurora, Colo.; Donald Eugene Harjo, Reno, Nev.; Jonathon Kirt Herrod, Wapato, Wash.; Ronald Thomas Huluby, Edmond; Terry Jo House, Oklahoma City; Lawnada Elane James, Tahlequah; Lela M. Keifer, Springdale, Ark.; Ronald Eugene Lowe, Pawhuska; Minnie Lowman, Watson; Alice Mae McLaughlin, Lawton; Robert Raynaldo Mendoza, Orono, Maine; Robert Carr Moore, Derby, Kan.; Edith Pauling Morgan, Juneau, Alaska; James Steven Morgan, Indiana, Penn.; Karen Lynette Morris, Moore; Lucy Nelson, Dallas, Texas; Florence Charline Owen, Midwest City; Linda Lou Ponkilla, Shawnee; Sandra Kaye Rains, Oklahoma City; Brenda Janette Robertson, Moore; Raymond Scott, Oklahoma City; Martha Wynell Stone, Pawhuska; Russell Dean Sullivan, Broken Bow; Robert Edwin Sweeney, Tahlequah; Peggy Sue Sweeney, Tahlequah; Lisa Carroll Talkington, Moore; Cassie Allyson Temple, Denham Springs, La.; Bamey Howard Thomas, Wichita, Kan.; and Connie Leann Tidwell, Bartlesville; Betty Mae Tiger, Oklahoma City; Samuel Tiger Sr., Oklahoma City; Delores Jane Tiger, Shawnee; Tillicr Wesley Jr.; Mamie West, Saginaw; Edith Morene Wichita, Pawnee; Millie Jean Wiley, Kingfisher; and Clint Yarholer, Oklahoma City.

To declare a voting district or for more information, contact: election board office, PO Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or (918) 756-8700, ext. 294.

Contract health service eligibility criteria

OKMULGEE — Patients requiring care from a non-Indian hospital or physician's office must meet eligibility criteria in order to receive authorized payment from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Contract Health Service.

An individual is considered eligible provided they are: of Indian descent and a member of a federally recognized tribe; reside within the defined geographical CHS catchment area of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as designated by federal regulations; and use all other resources to pay for referral care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration, worker's comp., Title XIX, and/or private insurance.

Determination for payment for the referral is based on medical priority, eligibility, and availability of funds. The referral does not constitute a guarantee of payment for any services. If additional procedures,

Ballard selected as January employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Gena Ballard, child development supervisor, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's January employee of the month.

Ballard's duties consist of: overseeing all of the child development centers under the office of child care, direct supervision of Okmulgee's CDC, and oversight of the center's day-to-day operations and parent involvement.

She graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1991. She received a bachelor of science degree in education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in May 1996.

Her interests include reading and walking. She attends Crosstown Penecostal Holiness Church.

She and her husband, Marty, have been married for three years and reside in Okmulgee with their one year old daughter, Makelti.

She has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for two years.



photo by Gerald Wofford

tests, follow-up hospitalization, etc. are required, patients should return for another referral.

When emergency care is required at another facility and individuals are not able to access an IHS or tribal facility, the patient or someone acting on their behalf must notify the CHS within 72 hours after the beginning of treatment. Section 406, Public Law 102-573 extends the 72 hour emergency notification requirement to 30 days for elderly and disabled Native Americans. Authorization for payment will be determined on the basis of medical priorities.

For more information, contact: Contract Health Service, 206 S. Grand, Suite 100, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or (918) 756-2710.

Eufaula dormitory receives renovation grant

EUFULA — The Eufaula Dormitory received a Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant for renovation and installation of a new HVAC system.

The \$1,483,468 grant has been a work in progress for about three years. It is a grant that will renovate the student sleeping rooms, living areas, rest rooms, and offices. It will also involve the installation of a new central heat and air system throughout the facility. The system will cost approximately \$310,000. It will enable each area to have its own climate controlled system.

The grant was written over the last year and a half and was submitted to Principal Chief Perry Beaver for signatory approval in November and submitted to the BIA. The Eufaula administration received notification of approval in December and the funding was received during the first week in January.

This grant increases the Eufaula Dormitory additional grant funding total to over \$1.9 million dollars since January 1998.

Tax commission asks citizens to retrieve titles

OKMULGEE — The Tax Commission Office requests tribal citizens retrieve vehicle titles that were returned to the tax office due to an incorrect address.

The following list of people are requested to bring in proof of address and retrieve their vehicle titles:

Alesha or Josh Baker; Rebecca S. Bizzell; Joseph Christensen; Deneice or Timothy Crow; Patricia J. Curry; Ann Lee Curtis; Daniel or Beverly Deo; Betty or Sterling Doss; Eva R. Gray; Carmin S. Gore; Cynthia or James Hall; Maria Halverson; Rick W. Hudson; Samaria or Brian Lenhart; Richard E. Lindsay; Edward L. Lowe; Homer or Donna Neal; Diane Reynolds; Stoney J. Samuels; Jody Smith; Rosalinda K. Snell; Donovan or Tami Spocogec; Gene R. Stapp; Paul or Angie Treat; Bobbie or Richard Wagnon; and Sheri Youtsey.

For more information, contact the tax commission at (918) 756-8700, ext. 315.

Oklahoma JOM conference to be held

OKLAHOMA CITY — The 1999 Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference, "JOM: Next Generation - Next Millennium," is scheduled for March 15 through 18 at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

This annual event is hosted by the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma along with the Oklahoma Area Education Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

On site registration is \$150; a special one-day registration is \$65. Registration times begin at 3:30 p.m. on March 15 and 8:00 a.m. on March 16 and 17.

For more information or to receive registration forms, contact Mevelyn Kirkpatrick at (580) 310-6620.

Harvard Project seeks applications

CAMBRIDGE — The Harvard Project on American Indian Development is seeking applications for "Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations."

Originally called "Best Practices in American Indian Nations Building," the recently renamed awards program will identify, celebrate, and share information about outstanding examples of tribal governance.

Completed applications are due April 9. To receive an application or to inform Harvard Project staff about a prospective candidate, call (617) 496-6632.

Education

Brown named salutarian of senior class

EUFULA — Beth Brown was named Salutarian of the 1999 graduating senior class of Eufaula High School.

Brown accumulated an overall grade point average of 3.769. She is a member of the National and Oklahoma Honor society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and was named to the superintendent's honor roll.



Brown

She's been a member of: Future Business Leaders of America; art club; president of the math and science club three years; academic team co-captain four years; softball catcher four years; and senior class president.

Brown has served as: Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation 1st runner-up; Miss Congeniality; Eufaula Indian Community Princess; and Eufaula Pow wow Princess.

She is the daughter of Jacqueline Brown and Gene Burris and the granddaughter of Jack and Edna Belcher and Bonnie Kirby all of Eufaula. She plans to attend college and pursue a career in international relations.

Tribal Citizen earns doctor of divinity degree

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Tribal citizen Jacob Harjo earned a doctor of divinity degree from the American Institute of Holistic Theology in October.

Harjo and his wife, Peggy, were employed by Haskell Indian Nations University for 30 years - devoting their life careers to the education of Native American students.

The couple retired at the end of the 1987 school year and returned to Wewoka where they now reside.



Harjo

Newcastle graduate receives degree

EDMONO — Paul Jerome Hess graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Dec. with a bachelor's degree in industrial safety.

Hess, a 1994 graduate of Newcastle High School, was named to the dean's honor roll.

He is the son of Paula Lorene Ray-Hess of Newcastle and the grandson of Rev. Paul Wayne Ray of Paden.

He plans to obtain a



Hess

master's degree at UCO and work for a local company.

Wagoner student named to all-state band

WAGONER — Robyn Johnston, Wagoner High School senior, was named as a 1999 All State Band member.

Johnston was one of 16 flutists selected in the state of Oklahoma, receiving the place of third chair. She is the first band all-stater in Wagoner School history.

Among her other senior achievements are: band queen; senior attendant; wrestling head mat maid; and top drum major, first place, in the Pryor marching contest.

She is the daughter of Mike and Oana Johnston. Her grandparents are Joe and Carolyn Higgins of Coweta, Fred and Katie Scott of Chelsea, and Leota Johnston of Joplin, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Edythe Howard of Broken Arrow and the late Bunny Howard.



Johnston

JOM seeking applications for scholarships

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson O'Malley program is accepting applications for eight \$1,000 scholarships.

All Native American high school seniors enrolled in schools within the tribal service area and served by Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM are eligible to apply. A copy of tribal citizenship or certificate of degree of Indian blood cards must be attached to applications. No income-based guidelines will apply.

The application deadline for the scholarships is March 22. Award recipients will be announced in April.

For more information, contact: Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM Program, PO Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or (918) 756-8700.

OU to hold American Indian forum

NORMAN — The University of Oklahoma's Native American Studies program is sponsoring its second American Indian Higher Education Forum, "Tribal Economic Development and the Higher Education Community," on March 25 and 26.

OU's Native American Indian Studies program is sponsoring the conference, which will take place on the campus of OU in Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Avenue.

Invited speakers include: Phillip Martin, chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Vine Deloria Jr., noted author of the University of Colorado; and Stephen Cornell, formerly of Harvard University.

Martin has been recognized for his leadership in making the Mississippi Choctaws one of the leaders in tribal economic development with its manufacturing, gaming, entrepreneurship, and business partnership activities over the past 30 years.

Deloria is known nationally, tribally, and internationally for his scholarship and research in Indian affairs.

Cornell is one of the nation's leading authorities on reservation tribal economic development. He was one of the major developers and contributors to the internationally proclaimed "Harvard Project on Reservation Economic Development."

The tentative agenda for the two-day conference includes plenary sessions, workshops, round-table discussions, a luncheon and a formal banquet honoring tribal economic leaders throughout the state.

On-site registration for the conference is \$125, which includes costs of materials, refreshments, the luncheon, and the banquet. High school and college student registration is \$50, which includes materials, refreshments and the luncheon. Students may purchase banquet tickets for an additional \$15.

Business, city, state, and tribal entities are encouraged to attend as a group. For preregistration and group rates of \$115 per person, please call (405) 325-2312.

Ethnic minority fellowship announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — United Methodist Communications is offering a one-year Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship to a United Methodist interested in religion communications as a career.

Qualified applicants must be of racial ethnic minority origin and a recent college or seminary graduate. An educational background in journalism, communications, or related areas are helpful.

The fellowship will be July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The salary will be \$30,000 plus benefits, moving expenses, and travel.

Completed applications must be mailed to the UMC by March 29. Application forms may be obtained by writing to: REM Fellowship Committee, United Methodist Communications, Conference Resourcing Team, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320; e-mail, REM @umcom.umd.org; website, http://crt.umd.com/info/rem_info.asp; or (888) 278-4862.

AISES headquarters moves to Albuquerque

BOULDER, Colo. — The American Indian Science and Engineering Society announced the relocation of its headquarters from Boulder, Colo., to Albuquerque, N.M.

The move will begin immediately and will be carried out in phases with the final move in June. A transition plan is being developed to minimize disruption to AISES constituents and the society's program.

The new location will provide a needed change to gain strength from both the Albuquerque and New Mexico communities. "We are a 20-year-old American Indian organization and we will continue to administer programs to our national constituency along with integrating into the Indian community" Sandra Begay-Campbell, the executive director of AISES, said.

AISES is a private, nonprofit organization which nurtures building of community by bridging science and technology with traditional native values. Through its educational programs, AISES provides opportunities for American Indians and Alaskan Natives to pursue studies in science, engineering, business and other academic arenas.

For more information, write to: AISES Executive Director, 5661 Airport Blvd.; Boulder, CO. 80301-2339; or call (303) 939-0023.

Society

Arrivals

Anthony Wotko Yahola

OKLAHOMA CITY — Anthony Wotko Yahola was born Oct. 21 at Hillcrest Health Center to Macy Screechowl and Anthony Yahola.

He weighed 7 pounds, one ounce and was 21 and one quarter inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Mildred Yahola of Oklahoma City and the late Cedo and Evelyn Screechowl.

His maternal grandparents are Miller and the late Pauline Yahola of Oklahoma City.



Yahola

Birthdays

Stroud boy celebrates his first birthday

STROUD — Colton Tyler Scott Harrell celebrated his first birthday with a Teletubby party theme on Dec. 27 with family and friends.

Harrell recently placed first at the 12 month and under state American Youth Pageant held in Gore. He also placed first in the 11 month and under Sapulpa Baby pageant and second in the 11 month and under national American Youth Pageant held in Enreka Springs, Ark.

Harrell plans to compete in the American Youth Pageant regional competition in Tulsa.

He is the son of Jara Harrell of Stroud. His grandmother is Dolores Seber. He belongs to Sand Creek Tribal Town.



Harrell

Henryetta toddler turns one

HENRYETTA — Keegan Lytch celebrated his first birthday with a party, Cupcake the Clown, and Penny the Pony.

Lytch turned one on Oct 17. Helping him celebrate were family and friends.

He is a member of the McIntosh Tumblers of Henryetta. He recently won first place on the double-mini trampoline in the one year old age division at a tumbling and trampoline meet held on Jan. 23 in Henryetta.



Lytch

Red Feathers basketball team places second in tourney

MUSKOGEE — The Red Feathers basketball team placed second in the Muskogee Indian Community All-Indian Youth Basketball Tournament held in December. The team competed in the Junior High division.

photo submitted

Pictured, front row, from left to right are: Aaron Tecumseh; Jeremy Monahwee; Michael West; and Ryan Taryole; back row, Carl West, coach; Ethan Bell; Andrew Lewis; and Jake Tilley. Teammates not pictured are: Micah Little; Bryan Barnett; and Toby Hill.



His parents are Richard and Sonya Lytch of Henryetta. Maternal grandparents are Joe "Spook" and Stella McIntosh of Dewar. His paternal grandparents are Seth and Linda Lytch of Okmulgee.

He is a member of the Bear Clan and belongs to Kecopataky Tribal Town.

Boy celebrates first birthday

HENRYETTA — Nakaia Gabriel Scott celebrated his first birthday with a Winnie the Pooh party theme at his parents home.

Scott turned one on Dec. 30. Helping him celebrate were family and friends.

His parents are Reginald and Meredith Scott of Henryetta.

Maternal grandparents are the Rev. Mitchell Taylor and the late Mary E. Taylor of Henryetta.

His paternal grandparents are Betty Watters of Henryetta and the late David Scott.

His great-grandmother is Elsie Watters.



Scott

Sapulpa boy celebrates his sixth birthday

SAPULPA — Jarod David Pickering celebrated his sixth birthday with a party at his parents homeplace.

Pickering is a kindergarten student at Woodlawn Elementary. He attends Little Cussetah Baptist Church in Sapulpa.

He is the son of John and Sandra Pickering. Paternal grandparents are James A. and Edna R. Pickering of Sapulpa. His maternal grandparents are Melvin and the late Betty Juanita Baker of Bristow.



Pickering

Annette Wilkinson and U.S. Navy Lt. Mark Bradley Rudesill exchanged vows of marriage on Feb. 27, in a traditional naval marriage ceremony.

Wilkinson is a graduate of Florida State University and Rudesill is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. After a honeymoon on St. Martins Island, the couple plan to reside in Jacksonville.

Wilkinson is the daughter of Bob and Imogene Anderson Wilkinson of Jacksonville. She is the niece of Jorenc Anderson Coker and Charlie Coker.

Rudesill is the son of Col. and Mrs. Robert S. Rudesill of Rosswell, Ga.



Rudesill and Wilkinson

Jacome elected president of Indian chapter

TUCSON, Ariz. — David Jacome has been elected to a two year term as President of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Jacome is the grandson of the late William L. McIntosh of Hitchita.

February Allotee Birthdays

Lady Beatrice Bruner Feb. 1, 1902 Coweta	Sadie P. Rush Feb. 16, 1900 Tulsa
Lucy Etta Nelson Feb. 6, 1905 Dallas, Texas	May Roberts Feb. 16, 1902 Sacramento, Calif.
Madella E. Walker Feb. 7, 1905 Manteen, Calif.	Ettie Jane Birdsong Feb. 17, 1905 Sapulpa
Sarah Pfeninghausen Feb. 15, 1902 Dustin	Weetsie McNac Feb. 20, 1902 Bristow
Sammie B. Isopocogee Feb. 16, 1906 Sapulpa	Susan Lawhorn Feb. 27, 1905 Tulsa

Tribal citizen to exchange vows

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Tribal citizen Charla

Obituaries

JACDB HALE

DKEMAH — Funeral services for Jacob Hale were held Jan. 18 at Greenleaf Baptist Church with Revs. Boots Fixico and Walter McGirt officiating.

Wake services were held Jan. 16 at Stout Chapel.

Hale died Jan. 14 at his home in Dkemah. He was born Dec. 2, 1946 to Billy and Lucy Coker Hale and was raised in the Cromwell area. He attended school in Excelsior and graduated from Butner schools in 1965. Hale attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. and was on the honor roll. He was employed as a construction worker all of his life.

He is survived by: four brothers, David Hale of Cromwell, Donald Hale of Glenpool, Anderson Hale of Bixby, and Jasper Hale of Hominy; six sisters, Marie Berryhill of Okemah, Mary Louise Randall of Oklahoma City, Betsy Sue Hewitt of Dkemah, Carolyn Tucker, of Tulsa, Maggie Coon of Cromwell, and Joyce Ann Hale of Dkemah; one uncle, Thomas Coker of Tulsa; and numerous nephews; nieces; and several friends.

Pallbearers were: Roger Frank; Ronnie Frank; Reuben Dunn; Kenneth Cooper; Frankie Coachman; and Terry Mosley. Honorary pallbearers were: Eddie Frank; Franklin Lowe; Eddie McKane; Billy McKane; and Manuel Coon.

Interment was at Little Quarsarty Cemetery.

THOMAS McCDMBS

EUFULA — Funeral services for Thomas McCombs were held Nov. 12 with Dr. Jim Shock officiating.

McCombs died Nov. 8 at a Tulsa hospital. He was born Jan. 6, 1920 to James and Ella McIntosh McCombs. He was married to Betty Krisks.

He was reared in Eufaula. He attended school at: Eufaula; Euchee Mission; Chilocco Indian School; Bacone College; and Oklahoma State University. He worked for the U.S. Army Veterans of World War II. He received: the American Theater Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; EAME Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars; Good Conduct Medal; and a Purple Heart. McCombs was a member of Tuskegee Baptist Church.

He is survived by: his wife; one sister, Martha McCombs of Okmulgee; two brothers, Elmer and Perry McCombs, both of Eufaula; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; three brothers, Davis, Saloman, and James McCombs Jr.

Pallbearers were: Red Eagle McIntosh; Dan Bamett; Taylor Phillips; Bud McCombs; Bird Creek Phillips; and Phillip Coon.

Burial with military honors was provided by Eufaula Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8798 at Greenwood Cemetery.

DOROTHY RICE

WAGONER — Funeral services for Dorothy Ann Rice were held Dec. 24 at Shipman Chapel with Rev. Paul Holmes officiating.

She died Dec. 21 in Muskogee. Rice was born Feb. 26, 1936 to Willie and Louise Colbert Bruner in

Haskell. She married Norman Kenneth Rice Sr. in Sand Springs on Dec. 3, 1955. She had been employed with Spartan Aircraft and T, G & Y in Muskogee. Her last employer was Goodwill Industries in Muskogee. Rice enjoyed quilting.

Rice was preceded in death by: her parents; brother, Willie Bruner Jr.; and one sister, Helen Soles.

She is survived by: her husband of the home; two sons, Kenny Rice of Okay and Fred Rice of Inola; one daughter, Joyce Jones of Glenpool; two sisters, Eloise Cason of Broken Arrow and Nita Billington of Tulsa; and seven grandchildren, Crystal, Carrie, Kyle, Samantha, Sabra, Daniel, and Kinley; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Interment was at Haskell City Cemetery.

Gratitude

I received numerous expressions of support from my fellow employees of the Muscogee Nation during my wife's illness.

After her death in January, your words and deeds have given me encouragement.

My family members and I extend our sincere thanks to all of you.

Bob Arrington Family

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, flowers, money, food, and personal visitation during the loss of our loved one.

Special thanks is extended to: Little Quarsarty Baptist Church; Snake Creek Baptist Church; and Little Cussetah Baptist Church.

Mosey Harjo Family

We would like to thank the following individuals and ceremonial grounds for their generosity and contributions to a benefit bingo held to help defray funeral expenses for our loved one.

They are as follows: Lena Tiger; Roman and Tootsie Hill; Gary and Naomi Mitchell; Andy Butler; Leigh Harjo; Clarence and Sally Tiger; Bill and Minnie Proctor; Simeon and Pat Johnson; Wisey Mitchell; Mr. and Mrs. Corkey Harjo; Wesley Butler; Shelia Harjo; Leta and Julie Butler; Chapman Cloud; Judy Proctor; Eugene and Dora Birdcreek; Dave and Bessie Proctor; John and Vivian Proctor; Lumber and Lydia Proctor; Bertha Tilkins; Betsy Taryole; Alexis Crosley; Dave and Liza Wind; LaVern Wind; Frank Coachman Family; Lucinda Wilson; Felix Brown Jr.; Thomas Yahola; Rick Lillard; Linda Alexander; Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground; Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground; Peach Ground; and a host of other friends who participated.

The support that was given our family was inspirational and we will remember your kindness.

Mvto.

Billy Scott Family

We would like to express our appreciation for all the cards, flowers, donations, and prayers offered during the loss of our loved one.

We would like to thank all of our family and friends who visited during our time of sorrow. We appreciate the food that was offered to our family.

Special thanks is offered to: Williamson Funeral

Home; Yardeka Indian Baptist Church; Bunny Hill; our loved ones' co-workers; Willie Frye; and Hickory Ground.

Johnny Billy family

The following people were excluded from the original gratitude of the Diane Randall Family: Little Quarsarty Baptist Church members; Greenleaf Baptist Church members; Ronnie Frank; and the Marie Bemo Family.

The Diane Randall family

State of Nation

continued from page 7

not forget that it is you, the people, that placed us in these positions — we are not here to serve our own personal agendas, but we have a mandate by the people to lead this Nation for its betterment. National Council, let us strive to work together to accomplish the great things that our people have entrusted us to do. The responsibility for the Nation's success rests on our shoulders.

As I have done each year, I wish to thank you for your support and prayers during the past year — for it is through your support that I am able to meet the ever changing and often difficult challenges that confront me as I strive to lead this Nation into prosperity and success. Together, hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder, we can and will succeed.

As I have always done, I put you in remembrance of the strength of our forebearers they endured and triumphed over difficult and dark times through faith in each other and in the Creator and by putting that faith in action — by working and uniting together to survive any outside force that came against them or their families. This again is the challenge and the hope that I leave with you today. Our unity is our strength.

In keeping with these thoughts on perseverance and overcoming obstacles — I would like to announce that I am proclaiming a Muscogee Nation Prayer and Fasting Day for April 3. The sovereignty of our great Muscogee Nation is threatened from every side, but history has shown that if a Nation of dedicated people calls upon the name of the Creator they will be delivered from the hand of their enemies. Therefore I decree that every Creek citizen, every Creek community, ceremonial grounds and churches come together on April 3 for a day of prayer and fasting on the common issues that affect us and to seek spiritual guidance and wisdom.

In closing, there is still work to be done — for our goal is not just to maintain our progress, but to exceed our accomplishments — to continue to reach out for new horizons of opportunities. I plan to lead the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to even greater successes in the future and I invite all of you to join me in this most important of undertakings — to see the Muscogee (Creek) Nation prosper and continue to be a leader among Indian nations.

Thank You.

Editor's note: The annual State of the Nation address of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry was printed in its entirety. The tribal Constitution, at Article 5, section 4, requires the principal chief to deliver the speech every year.

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	4	0	0	0	0
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	1,047	73,239	0	0	73,239
TREASURY	6,286	187,797	48,616	50,501	88,680
LITIGATION & LDBBYING	1,450	65,046	0	344	64,702
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	205,738	1,085,324	14,041	304,277	767,006
MDTDR FUEL TAXES	3,643	1,584,541	4,511	743,131	836,899
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	0	2,109,454	3,458	511,589	1,594,407
CDNSUMER LDANS	4,124	0	0	(56,677)	56,677
CREEK NATIDN BINGO	613,990	1,450,189	2,787	378,085	1,069,317
CN PERMANENT FUND	502,835	175,153	0	54,135	121,018
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	661,376	0	0	7,963	(7,963)
BEAR STEARNS PERM FUND	14,828	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	142	2,000	0	0	2,000
HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY	12,090	10,890	0	6,372	4,518
TRIBAL BUDGET	357,867	828,646	1,707	310,979	515,960
MOTOR VEHICLE	259,747	208,304	26,635	64,833	116,836
JTPA TITLE IV-A 98	146,028	546,801	836	156,847	389,118
WELFARE TO WORK	18,058	540,942	3,862	21,705	515,375
CCDBG 96	184,527	445,815	6,016	184,854	254,945
CCDBG 97	277,217	714,776	146,985	262,412	305,379
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	11,309	11,309	0	11,309	0
LIHEAP 98	301	10,520	0	300	10,220
FAMILY PRES 98	25,625	165,667	1,000	28,331	136,336
CCDBG 98	297,429	1,915,137	10,376	324,453	1,580,308
CCDBG 98 CONSTRUCTION	(15,000)	735,030	0	0	735,030
HEADSTART '98	199,353	650,421	203,147	306,785	140,489
TITLE IV-B 98	28,145	133,444	754	40,288	92,402
FAMILY VIOLENCE 98	28,126	191,197	1,000	29,418	160,779
LIHEAP 99	0	77,270	75	378	76,817
CCDBG 99 MANDATORY FUNDS	1,926	1,205,828	116	2,500	1,203,212
HEADSTART 99	0	1,397,176	590	15,507	1,381,079
TITLE IV-B 99	0	231,739	0	0	231,739
FOOD DISTRIBUTION 99	72,119	384,276	412	94,764	289,100
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	0	4,000	0	0	4,000
LIBRARY SERVICE TECH	0	2,000	0	0	2,000
JDM EARLY CHILDHOOD	11	0	0	0	0
JOHNSON D'MALLEY	49,482	28,300	0	1,377	26,923
HEADSTART USDA REIMBUR	41,054	28,635	7,350	9,369	11,916
EUFAULA DORM	1,377	0	0	0	0
ELECTION BOARD	10	0	0	0	0
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	1,265	5,400	0	875	4,525
REVOLVING FUND	55	0	0	0	0
LIGHTHORSE PROGRAM INCDME	3,750	3,750	0	110	3,640
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	4,696,780	4,386,203	12,027	1,453,410	2,920,766
D. OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	(2,872)	0	0	0	0
EUFAULA DORMITORY	844	0	0	831	(831)
DIVISION OF T. AFFAIRS	39,629	2,485,123	250	56,222	2,428,651
KELLEYVILLE BRIDGE	1	138,380	0	0	138,380
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,070	1,060	0	1,060	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	21	0	0	0	0
EUFAULA DORMITORY 97	408,454	404,574	800	129,402	274,372
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,293	588	0	588	0
JOHNSON D'MALLEY	61,135	59,110	0	4,821	54,289
EUFAULA DORMITORY 98	1,016,280	2,502,682	25,650	122,195	2,354,837
TRANSPORTATION IMPR. 98	9,472	49,494	105	13,914	35,475
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 99	11,600	11,600	0	598	11,002
JOHNSON O'MALLEY 99	929,300	929,300	648	39,041	889,611
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	0	60,000	0	0	60,000
WETUMKA PROJECT	0	90,000	0	0	90,000
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	12,590	73,543	133	19,914	53,496
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM	16,368	96,164	77	23,532	72,555
DRUG COURT	0	179,967	0	0	179,967
EPA	0	75,000	0	0	75,000
COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT	(61,225)	286,513	0	87,958	198,555
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	143,641	0	0	29,002	(29,002)
TRIBAL AGRIC PROGRAM	148	14,287	96	5,239	8,952
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	118,558	483,311	0	100,363	382,948
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	14,818	0	0	0	0
COMMUNICATION REVILING FUND	529	1,317	0	385	932
MCN FLAGS & ETC.	70	0	0	0	0
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	20,028	81,482	2,900	3,711	74,871
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	15,760	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENT TRUST	(147,320)	0	0	0	0
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	7,026	0	0	(16,303)	16,303
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST	14	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL-REAL PRDP & FACILITIES	558,390	874,067	2,652	179,710	691,705
TRIBAL-PROPERTY & SUPPLY	37,231	161,431	0	40,871	120,560
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	110,884	133,855	0	0	133,855
CN FOUND SCHOLARSHIP FUND	783	0	0	1,200	(1,200)
NO DESCRIPTION	500	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	12,039,134	30,789,067	529,612	6,164,778	24,094,677

Quarterly treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Dec. 31, 1998 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the first quarter of fiscal year 1999. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the first quarter ending Dec. 31, 1998.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved as of Dec. 31, 1998 in the annual comprehensive budget or as adjusted by ordinance.

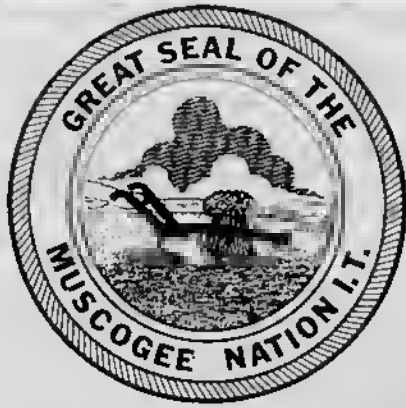
The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **unencumbered** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Dec. 31, 1998.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700.

The figures are not audited.



The Muscogee Nation News

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April 1999, 8 pages

Allie Reynolds; Mvskoke pitching phenom of the Bronx Bombers

by Gerald Wofford

The new century saw the American Indian slowly being stripped of his identity and way of life. His religion and communal life-style were slowly disappearing also.

Yet he would survive. His inner fire would be unquenchable. The fire of tribal affiliation, and competitiveness were integral parts of this.

Of all the attributes the Native American has been blessed with, perhaps the ability to adapt has been his most successful. His ability to adapt when a powerful government demanded that he change his language and learn a new one is proof. The demand to dress different, talk different, and look different is also remarkable evidence.

The American Indian had come to accept a new world. He could no longer defeat the white man on the military battlefield. Perhaps there were other ways to win.

Sports have been a literal godsend for American Indians. Throughout the centuries, Indians have been true warriors on the playing field. Shy, inward Indian children have suddenly found an outlet in sports. Elders take pride in their grandchildren's heroics on the court. Throughout the centuries, Indians have been true warriors on the playing field. Even today, hardly a weekend goes by when there is not an Indian ball tournament of some type taking place somewhere. White Americans have always loved their sports. The Native American is no different.

Native Americans have been well represented throughout the century in the field of sports. Of course the great Indian Athlete Jim Thorpe and his truly astounding heroics will always deserve mention. To capture a gold medal in the decathlon and pentathlon events in the same Olympic games is truly incredible. The gold medal won by Billy Mills in the 1964 Tokyo games is considered by many sportswriters as the "greatest upset in Olympic History." There is another great Indian athlete of the century, Allie Pierce Reynolds, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

Reynolds was a pitcher for the World Champion New York Yankees in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He played alongside some of the "Legends of Baseball", Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, and Yogi Berra. He began his career with the Cleveland Indians in 1942. From there, he would he would join the Yankees in 1947. Allie Reynolds is only be-

hind Yankee pitching great Whitey Ford and Oakland A's Rollie Fingers, both of whom are inshrined in Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, on the list as appearing in the most World Series games. He would play in fifteen World Series games claiming six World Series championships while recording four saves in 77 innings pitched.

He would lead the American League in strikeouts in 1943 and 1952. He would have the Best Earned Run Average in the American League in 1952 and 1954. He pitched the most shutouts in the American League in 1945 and 1952. In 1951, he became the first AL pitcher to pitch two no-hitters in the same season, defeating Cleveland, 1-0 and Boston 8-0.

"Reynolds is two ways great which is starting and relieving, which no one can do like him," the late Yankees manager Casey Stengel once said. "He is a tremen-

please see REYNOLDS..., page 6



photo by Gerald Wofford

Larry Reynolds blows a chofar, a horn to announce a special session, while Rev. Jimmy "Bunny" Hill looks on. The chofar was blown during the day of fasting and prayer held recently at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex.

Muscogee Nation holding first art auction

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department will hold an art auction and reception on April 29, at 7 p.m. in the Solomon McComb Executive Building located at U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56 in Okmulgee.

"This will give the local community a chance to own some very unique Native American art, while supporting a good cause," said Gerald Wofford, auction coordinator.

The proceeds of the auction will go towards creating a Native American Film Scholarship to be awarded in the fall.

The criteria for the film scholarship application will be announced at a later date.



'Untitled' work by Howard

The recipient of the scholarship will be announced in November. Artists whose work will be available include: Norma Howard; Enoch Kelly Haney; Kenneth Johnson; Tillie Noon, Dan Lomahastewa; Ben and Barbara Harjo; Johnson Bobb; Jessie Hummingbird; Randy Kemp; Aaron Brokeshoulder; Lorenzo Coriz; Daniel "Sunshine" Reeves; Randy Kemp; and Jim Burgess.

For more information, contact Gerald Wofford, auction coordinator, at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 300; 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 300; e-mail, comm1@ocvnet.org; or write: Muscogee Nation News, P.O. Box

580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Letters to the editor

Man thanks Muscogee Nation for hospitality

Editor:

I wanted to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the warm hospitality extended to me and others from the National Indian Gaming Commission during our recent visit.

I would also like to thank the Nation for the beautiful sticks and wall hanging.

Barry Brandon, Washington D.C.

Editor's note: Brandon, a tribal citizen, is the general counsel for the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Tribal citizen says thank you

Editor:

My appreciation is extended to the Muscogee National Council, judicial branch, and the cooks that thoughtfully made preparations and presentations on behalf of me and my staff.

Montie Deer, Washington D.C.

Editor's note: Deer, a tribal citizen, is the chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Letter to the principal chief

Editor:

Unto my brother, Chief R. Perry Beaver. You do not know me. My name is Robert W. Cannon, I am from the old lands of the Muscogee and I write these words with love and respect for my brothers and sisters. I am about 1/8 Muscogee. But I have a heart that is 100% Muscogee. I am the great-great-great-grandson of Josiah Francis. I do not have proof of any thing I write to you and so I ask that you bring this letter to the attention of our people. I ask that the brothers and sisters who still have the ability to enter into the spirit world. I ask that they do so, and while there I ask that they concentrate on me and the things I write. I believe that many years ago, my grandfather Josiah thought that he had failed to help his people but at that time there was nothing that could have been done for the good of the Muscogee Nation. Old sharp knife had a severely hard hand in dealing with our people and I believe that grandfather hoped that in the future that something could be done to help his people. I believe he left these words with them. Sometimes in the future my grandson will appear. You will know him by his name. He will be of a large gun. His name will also be of a small bird. It is my belief that grandfather proclaimed me to be the unborn prophet. But as said I do not know. I leave this to the discretion of the people. This I have written I believe to be the truth.

Robert Cannon, Alabama

Bristow man grateful of home repair

Editor:

I would like to give special words of appreciation to the representatives of the Creek Nation Housing Authority for their efficient planning and tireless efforts to make this minor repair program an actuality in meeting my needs. The workers under took this task willingly, installing in my home a hot water heater and a gas heating furnace without hesitation. I am most grateful for a job well done. Thank you.

Arlexter Waldon, Bristow Indian Community

Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 4, April 1999.

In the matter of K.J., M.J., S.J., and D.J., minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV-96-30.

Notice of hearing to Darrell Davis, the father of D.J. and Rick Steiner, Father of S.J.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered cases for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 30th day of April, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain wards of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of March, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 4, April 1999.

In the matter of Deametra Berryhill, minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV-96-16.

Notice of hearing the unknown father of Deametra Berryhill.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered cases for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 30th day of April, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain wards of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of March, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 28, issue 4, April 1999.

In the matter of Alexis Gist and Tiara Gist, minor Muscogee (Creek) Child, case no. JV-92-13.

Notice of hearing the unknown father of Tiara Gist.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purposes of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 30th day of April, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain wards of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of March, 1999.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

The Time of the Pecan Leaves

by Jacob Narcomey

For a few cold weeks, pecan trees, bleak and lifeless, their limbs bare and brittle against gray skies, and appearing as if they could never come back to life, have stood silently in fields. They will remain that way, suspended and inactive, until well after other trees around them are sporting their spring wardrobes.

Pecan tree leaves won't appear until the last frost has gone and no threat remains that they will return. Other trees, though, a bit idealistic, eager, and impatient, begin blooming at the first hint of spring. They often have to adjust their attitudes when an unexpected frost slams them back to reality.

Pecan trees know when winter is over and the next cycle has begun. The appearance of their leaves is a testament of triumph over a bleak and desolate period and that they are committing themselves confidently into the grand possibilities of a new season.

Humankind's vital spirit can't be speeded up either. It has its own rhythm, its own internal signal, and its own perfect time to burst into bloom. No one can be wrong if they wait for their inner voice to guide them into the next season of their lives.

And we function best too when we leave hard and cold winters of our past behind and live in the present, wrapped in the leaves of memories that refresh and sustain our dreams.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the March 27 regular session.

Absent were **Earl King**, Tulsa.

Speaker Kenneth Childers conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business it:

- approved unanimously (24-0) Tribal Resolution 99-11, confirming the nomination of **Belinda J. Colburn Sisco**, a Muscogee tribal citizen residing in Checotah, to serve as a Eufaula Boarding School board member;

Voting yes were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **David Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **George Tiger**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously (24-0), TR 99-12, confirming the nomination of **Mary N. Tiger Kaulay** to serve as a Eufaula Boarding School board member;

Kaulay is a tribal citizen residing in Checotah;

- approved unanimously (23-0) TR 99-13, approving the selection of contractors for major rehabilitation work for the housing authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma and authorizing the housing authority to execute contracts for such major rehabilitation work;

- approved unanimously (24-0) TR 99-14, authorizing the principal chief to attach an exhibit to the memorandum of agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the housing authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma Inc.;

- approved unanimously (24-0) National Council Act

99-04, amending the Muscogee (Creek) Nation criminal code adopted in NCA 92-14 by adding thereto a new chapter seven entitled revised criminal offenses;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-20, adopting an amended election code and repealing NCA 81-82 and all previous amendments to NCA 81-82;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-24, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of funds for a feasibility study for a tribally owned funeral home;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-25, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of funds for the 25th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-31, authorizing the Office of Child Care to expend funds received for child care services for FY 99;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-32, authorizing a budget modification for the Office of Child Care FY 1996 CCDBG budget;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-34, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of funds for Haikey United Methodist Church for the annual camp meeting of the senior methodist organization of the Northeast district of the United Methodist Church;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-36, authorizing the development and implementation of a burial assistance program;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-37, amending NCA 98-106, approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 1999 and providing for appropriations;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-38, authorizing a budget modification for the department of Justice and Office of Attorney General;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-40, amending NCA 97-108, as amended by NCA 98-72 and NCA 98-133, the Nation's fiscal year 1998 Indian housing plan;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-41, amending NCA 98-73, as amended by NCA 98-134, the Nation's fiscal year 1999 Indian housing plan;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-42, authorizing an agreement between the Gaming Operations Au-

thority board and Carpet One;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-43, authorizing the advertising contracts between Allen Wallach, marketing consultant, and Creek Nation Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Muskogee Bingos;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-44, authorizing the principal chief to negotiate for the purchase of certain property located in the city of Wetumka, Oklahoma;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-45, authorizing the principal chief to grant, on behalf of the Nation, limited revocable permits with individuals who own property adjacent to and only accessible through the Nation's trust property near Hanna, Oklahoma

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-46, authorizing a memorandum of agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, Inc., implementing the Nation's Indian Community Development Block Grant;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 99-47, amending NCA 99-16 to deposit the funds derived from the settlement with the Bank of Oklahoma into a special account in the general fund to remain available for future appropriation or disposition by the National Council; and

- approved (21-3) NCA 99-33, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of funds for an audit of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community and its enterprises;

Voting no were: **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; and **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh.

**The April regular session of
the National Council will be held
at 10 a.m., April 24.**

Reynolds

continued from page one

competitor and he has guts and his courage is simply tremendous."

Allie Reynolds received many awards during his illustrious career.

Some include: New York Sports Writers Player of the Year in 1951; The Sid Mercer Award in 1951; and Professional athlete of the year in 1951.

He was born on February 10, 1917 in Bethany, Oklahoma. The college baseball



Reynolds and DiMaggio

stadium at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater is proudly named after him.

He played in a game that was dominated by politics, and white athletes. He was a successful major league pitcher before a young black athlete name Jackie Robinson would join the Brooklyn Dodgers. In those days as now, the Yankees and Dodgers were bitter rivals. In a time when politically correct was unheard of, it is rumored that after Robinson's arrival and popularity were well-known that Yankee Manager Casey Stengel said "Lets see that Black hitter hit off my Indian pitcher!" In their many World Championship face-offs during Allie's time, the Yankees won four world series while Brooklyn captured none.

On December 26, of 1994, Allie Pierce Reynolds died of cancer at the age of 79.

For all his many exploits and great statistics, he has not been inducted into the hall of fame.

At the present time, there is a petition being circulated to have him instated.

While we have paused and celebrated the great career of Allie Reynolds, a famous Native American, and Muscogee (Creek) Citizen. One must stop

and ponder what truly was the impact and definition of the Native American athlete on the American scene in the twentieth century?

While it seems that Native American athletes did not suffer the same racial persecution as Black athletes did, does it make the Native American's achievements in sports any smaller?

If we can honestly say that the black athlete, Jackie Robinson broke the 'color barrier' by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Does this mean that Reynolds, Thorpe, and other Indian Athletes before 1947 are considered 'white'? It is confusing when one considers the American Indian wasn't given full American citizenship until 1924. Perhaps history needs to be rewritten again.

Editor's note: If you are interested in signing a petition to have Allie Reynolds instated into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Please contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief's office at (918) 756-8700, ext. 200.

Programs-notice

Head Start program accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program is accepting enrollment applications for the 1999-2000 school year.

The head start program is accepting applications for the following locations: Eufaula, 800 Forest Ave., (918) 689-5613; Okmulgee, 1808 N. Miami, (918) 758-1430; Sapulpa, 520 S. Adams, (918) 227-4931; and Yeager, Rt. 1 Box 308, (405) 379-6693.

The following information must be submitted along with the application: birth certificate (children must be at least three years of age); income verification; Social Security card; up-to-date immunization records; and a certificate degree of Indian blood card.

Applications can be obtained from the administrative office located at 1808 N. Miami.

Hospice of Green Country seeks volunteers

TULSA — Hospice of Green Country is seeking volunteers to provide assistance to patients and their families in Tulsa, Sapulpa, and Owasso.

Hospice is a specialized, at-home care program for people with a limited life expectancy regardless of their ability to pay. Hospice of Green Country is the only nonprofit, independent hospice program in the Tulsa area.

For more information, contact volunteer program manager Mary Saurer at (918) 747-2273.

American Diabetes Association offers test

OKLAHOMA CITY — The American Diabetes Association is offering diabetes risk tests as part of its American Diabetes Alert Campaign.

The alert is a nationwide, public awareness effort to reduce the 5.4 million people with undiagnosed diabetes.

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the way your body uses food. If left untreated, diabetes can slowly destroy the blood vessels and nerves with no warning.

Seventy-five percent of people with diabetes have no symptoms. Although there is no cure for diabetes, people can live well if diagnosed early and properly treated.

For a diabetes risk test, call 1(800) 342-2383.

Indian education program youth pow wow

PUTNAM CITY — Putnam City Schools Indian Education Program is holding a Youth Pow Wow at the Putnam City High School's old gymnasium located at 5300 N.W. 50th on April 30.

The headstaff of the youth pow wow are: Archie Mason, master of ceremonies; Jim Anquoe, head singer; D.J. Yarholer, head dancer; Candice McCoy, lead lady dancer; Blackbird Singers, host northern drum; and Crickett Shields and John Morrow, arena directors.

The boys and girls contests will be divided into two age groups: six to 12 and 13 to 19 years of age. The boys categories are: fancy; grass; traditional; and straight. The girls categories are: buckskin; fancy shawl; traditional; and jingle.

The youth contest winners will receive the following awards: first place, \$75; second place, \$50; and

Communications staff member recognized by foundation

TULSA — Gerald Wofford, Muscogee (Creek) Nation's audio-video specialist, was recently recognized by the Cinema Arts Foundation for the establishment of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Film & Video Festival.

Wofford was a recipient of the Award of Merit of the Foundation's Annual Achievement Awards held during an Academy Awards celebration on March 21.

The presentation of the award was made at the auditorium on campus of Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

He was instrumental in creating the film festival, which was held on December 7 and 8 at the Muscogee Nation mound auditorium.



Wofford

Some of the movies shown included; Smoke Signals, Naturally Native, Honey Moccasins, Kahnehsataka, and Tushka.

Smoke Signals and Tushka recently won numerous awards at the Native American Film Festival in San Francisco.

The Foundation thanked Wofford for his great dedication and commitment made to support the artistic efforts through the film medium in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Wofford was also instrumental in organizing an art auction to be held in April with proceeds to benefit the first

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Native American Film Scholarship.

place third, \$25.

The family of Candice McCoy is sponsoring a special fancy shawl contest open to all ages. The winners will receive the following awards: first place, \$300; second place, \$125; and third place, \$75.

All drums are welcome. Arts and crafts booths are allowed for a fee of \$25 and you must bring your own table and chairs.

For more information, contact Putnam City Schools Indian Education Program at (405) 495-0168.

Haskell spring commencement and pow wow

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Annual Haskell Indian Nations University's Spring Commencement and Pow wow will be held on May 7 and 8.

The spring commencement will begin at 10 a.m. on May 7. The pow wow is now its 27th year and attracts over 20,000 people annually.

Head staff for this year's pow wow consists of graduating HINU students. The head staff includes the following: Charles Norcross, head man dancer; Michelle Guzman, head lady dancer; Manny King, master of ceremonies; Joe Bointy and Danny Cozad, arena directors; Thundershield, host northern drum;

and Tom Spotted Horse, head singer.

The annual spring pow wow parade will be on May 8 in downtown Lawrence.

For more information or vendor information, contact the Haskell Foundation at (785) 749-8417 or Cecil Dawes at (785) 749-8404, ext. 241.

Emergency medical services summer conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Native American Emergency Medical Services Association's 10th Annual Summer Conference will be held June 14 through 18 at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center located on 803 S. Meridian.

The conference will discuss the following topics: airway management; bystander care program; cerebral vascular accidents; cervical spine immobilization; child abuse; crime scene investigations; diabetic care; forensic investigations; psychological emergencies; renal failure and dialysis; and water rescue.

The registration fee before May 31 is: member, \$85; non member, \$95; and one day, \$45. The registration after May 31 is \$110 for a member and \$125

please see **CONFERENCE...**, page 6

Minnick selected as March employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Danna Minnick, employment-training manager, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's March employee of the month.

Minnick's duties consists of: over the job training; summer youth employment; adult education; employment assistance; tribal and incentive vocational grants; and welfare to work program.

Her co-workers consistently listed her great work ethics, working well with others, and making every effort to ensure all ETA programs are running efficiently as reasons why she should be acknowledged as employee of the month.

She and her husband Mike have been married for 10 years and reside in Checotah with their four children: Danny; Lara; Brad; and Taloha. She also has three grandchildren: Jake; Dustin; and Ricky.

She has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for 15 years.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Society-education

Arrivals

Alexandra Rose Brown

TULSA — Alexandra Rose Brown was born Jan. 20 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Bobbie Frye and Robert E. Brown.

She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 and one-half inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Kathryn and Ken Peirce of Tulsa and the late Bobby Brown. Her maternal grandparents are Roselyn Bunny and Bobby Frye of Tulsa.

Paternal great-grandparents are Charles Warren of Sapulpa and the late Margaret Warren and Lorene Brown of Kellyville. Her maternal great-grandparents are the late James and Lucille Smith Bunny and the late Sandy and Ella Frye.



Brown

Jacinda Jai and Andy Chenoskey Butler

TULSA — Jacinda Jai and Andy Chenoskey Butler was born March 11 at Hillcrest Medical Center to Wesley and Senorea Manley Butler Jr.

Jacinda weighed 5lbs and was 18 and three-quarter inches in length. Andy weighed 5lbs, 13 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Nellie Butler of Tulsa and Wesley Butler Sr. of Okmulgee. Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee and Hillis Manley of Dewar.

Great-grandparents are: Eugene and Mattie Thomas of Okmulgee; Rosa Lee Manley of Weleetka; the late George Manley; Andrew Butler; and Thomas Deere Harjo.

Jessica Michele Frazier

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Jessica Michele Frazier was born Dec. 25 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital to Agnes Givens and Michael Frazier.

She weighed 8lbs, 5 ounces and was 20 and one half inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Jesse Givens and Mary J. Givens of Wetumka.

Paternal grandparents are Bobbie Frazier of Philadelphia, Massachusetts and the late Leroy



Frazier

Frazier.

She is the great-granddaughter of: Eunah Givens of Wetumka; the late Louis and Agnes Wesley Hobia; and the late Mary Dewochee Givens.

Allison Nicole Harrison

GLENPOOL — Allison Nicole Harrison was born March 3 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Jason and Robin Harrison.

She weighed 9lbs, 12 ounces and was 22 inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Lena Rivas of Glenpool and the late Damacio Anzures.

Maternal grandparents are Ronnie and Della Cherry of Holdenville.

She is the great-granddaughter of the late Mary Yahola Gouge.



Harrison

Izabel Jade Olguin

ALTUS — Izabel Jade Olguin was born Feb. 15 at Jackson County Memorial Hospital to Tabitha Watts of Altus and Mario Olguin of Amarillo, Texas.

She weighed 7lbs, 12 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are David and Darla Gallagher of Altus. Paternal grandparents are Abel and Ruth Villagram of Amarillo, Texas.



Olguin

E'tya Arcta-Angel Quiett

TULSA — E'tya Areta-Angel Quiett was born December 23 at St. Francis Hospital to Cherrah Ridge and Russell Quiett.

She weighed 8lbs, 13 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Dr. Roger and Patricia Quiett of Tulsa. Maternal grandparents are Eddie and Debbie Ridge of Tulsa.

Her maternal great-grandparents are Ella and the late Bennie Bender of Cromwell and Helen and the late Watie Ridge of Tahlequah.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Ellis and Dr. Leota Quiett of Tulsa and the late William and Agnes Glory of Tahlequah.

She has one sister, Tafv.



Quiett

celebrated his first birthday on March 1 with a Bamey theme.

He is the son of Randee Cherry and Seth Whetsine of Holdenville.

Paternal grandparents are Pepa and Valarie Chevez of Holdenville and Papa Whetstine of Seminole.

He is the great-grandson of the late Mary Yahola Gouge.



Whetstine

Allottee Zana Wilson Goode turns 100

TULSA — Mvskoke Allottee Zana Wilson Goode recently celebrated her 100th birthday on April 7.

She was one of six children that was raised and schooled in Holdenville at an early age.

At the age of 18 she was converted to Christianity. She married her high school classmate Erick Goode and to this union were 11 children.

Her parents are the late Julius and Mary Wilson in Wagoner.

She enjoys quilting and cooking and says the key to longevity is a good chew of Beech-Nut tobacco.



E. and Z. Goode

April Allottee Birthdays

Kitty Stafford
April 3, 1905
Eufaula

Clarence Pittman
April 6, 1905
Muskogee

Mvskoke citizen selected as featured artist

HENRYETTA — Mvskoke Citizen Albert Harjo was selected as the Oklahoma Heritage Foundation Association Annual Membership meeting's featured artist on March 26.

Harjo was born in Hanna on Sept. 25, 1937 to Mitchell Harjo and Louise Tiger. He attended Jones Academy, a Federal Indian School in Hartshorne and later transferred to Chilocco Indian school near Ponca City, where he graduated in 1956.

He entered the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1959. He married and worked on the west coast as a laborer. After the death of his wife in 1973, he found it necessary to stay home with his four daughters. This is when he decided to try his hand at drawing and learned so by doing.

Lack of financial support denied Harjo his ambition to attend art school but he was not discouraged. He listened to his inner voices and began to paint. While he has no formal education in the arts, his natu-

Birthdays

Boy celebrates his first birthday

HOLDENVILLE — Cody Steven Whetstine cel-

please see ARTIST..., page 6

Society-education

Artists

continued from page five

talents and feel for his ancestors and contemporaries has led him into the company of many outstanding Indian and Western artists. Many of Harjo's paintings depict the lives of Indians from the five civilized tribes. Ideas for his paintings come to him from time to time as inspirations and visualizations while others are researched for authenticity.

Reunions

Chalakee-Berryhill reunion

BROKEN ARROW — Family, relations & friends of Fannie M. Berryhill Chalakee and the late Rev. John Chalakee are invited to attend a reunion on Memorial Day weekend, May 29 and 30, at Springtown Church.

On May 29, an auction will be held. Sunday morning services will be held May 30. A covered dish dinner will be served at noon with games following. For more information call (918) 486-5461.

Community briefs

Tulsa Indian community to host spring fling

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host "Spring Fling 1999" at its center on May 1 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The spring fling will feature: hand made arts and crafts; traditional foods; moonwalk jumper; Native American blues music; horseshoe contest; Native American story telling; domino tournament; raffle contests/prizes.

For more information contact the Tulsa Creek Indian Community at (918) 298-2464.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community youth science fair

TULSA — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community is holding a youth science fair, "Traditional Use, Not Abuse," on tobacco to be held May 1 at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Creek youth ages 13-18 are eligible to apply. Parents, relatives, elders, and community officials and members are urged to attend and offer support and ideas to these young adults.

Projects covering any type of tobacco-smoking issues will be accepted. Suggested topics include: issues on health; teen smoking; current tobacco affairs; tribal and non-tribal; traditional uses; advertisement; and environmental.

Any method of proposal will be acceptable such as a verbal presentation, video documentary, research project-paper, and an interview of a relative.

Prizes include: first place, \$300.00 and T-shirt; second place, \$200.00 and T-shirt; third place, \$100.00 and T-shirt. A consolation prize of a T-shirt will be given to each individual registered.

The deadline for registration forms is April 24.

Education

Citizen chosen to be in who's who in sports

MUSCOGEE — Tribal citizen Emmanuel Bezzell,

Morris pre-school student participates in karate tournament

MORRIS — Zachary Roberts, a preschool student at Morris elementary, participated in the Sixth Annual American Karate Challenge Tournament on March 27 in Locust Grove.

The five year old has a yellow belt rank in Shotokan karate under instructor Danny Roberts of Roberts Skotokan warriors in Morris. He took first place in sparring and forms. This April he goes for a gold belt ranking test.

Roberts is the son of Danny and Janell Roberts. He has a older brother, William Daniel Roberts, ten, which has inspired Zac in martial arts. He is a Jr. black belt in skotokan karate.

He is the grandson of: Stanley Roberts of Okmulgee; William and Eillene McLaughlin of Morris; and Irene Morgan of Eufaula.



photo by Gerald Wofford

a junior at Dewar high school, has been chosen to appear in the 21st high school edition of Who's Who in Sports. All Star 1998-1999.

Bezzell maintains an excellent attendance record and his grade point average is 3.6. Emmanuel is a shooting guard on the basketball team. He averaged 14 points per game. He was a contributing factor for Dewar's 18-8 season. He is also an artist and placed 3rd in the Creek Nations's art festival last year.

Bezzell plans to attend college after high school. He is the son of Gloria Bezzell and the grandson of Jackson Narcomey and the great grandson of Frances Narcomey of Okay.

He is a member of the bird clan.



Bezzell

Higher education accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Higher Education is accepting application requests for the 1999-2000 academic year.

To be eligible students must: possess a certificate degree of Indian blood and Muscogee Tribal membership cards; be planning to attend an accredited two-year junior college or four-year university in the U.S.; and apply for federal financial aid at their college or university and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form to be eligible for the higher education grant.

Applications will be mailed February through May 31. Submit written requests for applications. The closing date to apply for the self governance higher education grant is June 1. The tribal grant application closing date is June 15.

Continuing students on the program must have submitted current grade reports or transcripts and met requirements to receive a renewal form. The renewal forms will be mailed March 1 and should be returned by June 1.

For more information, contact the higher education

office at: (918) 756-8700; or 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 614, 615, or 616.

Johnson selected to participate in program

NEW YORK CITY — Kenneth Johnson has recently been selected to participate in the National Museum of the American Indian Smithsonian Institution's Artist-in-Residence program.

Participation in the program involves a 21 day study of NMAI's collection of artifacts, a public presentation of the artists artwork and a community project of the artists choosing.

Johnson is an accomplished metalsmith currently residing in New Mexico.

He is the son of Rowena Johnson of Oakhurst. His grandmother is the late Lucinda WalkingStick of Oakhurst.

Conference

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for a non member.

For more information, contact Debbie Toney at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2266 or Leroy Harjo at (918) 623-0659.

Dedication of the Muscogee veterans monument

OKMULGEE — The Dedication of the Muscogee Veterans Monument will be Saturday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m on the west side of the Muscogee (Creek) Capitol Complex building located at U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

The keynote speaker will be Colonel Edward Moore.

The Muscogee Nation News is accepting submissions from tribal graduates for publication in its graduates' section in the June issue.

Student should submit their roll number, a photo, and the following information by May 31:

- parents;
- grandparents;
- awards and activities; and
- plans.

Obituaries

DEAN BROOK

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Dean Brook were held Feb. 27 at the Parks Brothers Chapel with Rev. Carl Clay officiating.

He died Feb. 24 at his home northeast of Okemah. He was born May 19, 1908 in Okemah to John and Jeanetta Harvison Brook. On June 14, 1934 he married Margaret Alyn Geren at Wetumka. He was a rancher and active for many years in the Okemah Round up club. Brook was a member of the First Baptist church and the Oklahoma cattleman association.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, "Scootie" Brook.

Brook is survived by: his wife, two sons, Jon Brook of Tulsa and Dan Brook of Okemah, one daughter, Candee Collins of Kilgore, TX; two sisters, Virginia Birk of Santa Barbara, CA and Lucretia Harkey-Roberts of Okemah; three grandchildren and three great grand children.

Pallbearers were: Bobby Bean, Jimmy Smith, Don Baker, Gordon Geren, Cecil Campbell and Leon Shepard.

Honorary pallbearers were: Nolan Rutland, Claude Kezer, Ira Skinner, Nolan Adams, Harlan Swinford and Terry Swinford.

Interment was at Highland Cemetery.

SUSIE SCOTT

OKEMAH — Funeral services were held for Susie Jane Scott of March 6 at Springfield United Methodist church. Speakers were Jerry Baker in English and Justin Deere in Creek.

Wake services were March 4 at the Parks Brothers Chapel.

She died March 2 at Fountain view nursing home in Henryetta.

Scott was born Jan. 23, 1908 in Bryant to Josiah and Fannie Sullivan Looney. She is a member of the Deer clan. She married Ellis Scott. She attended school in Bryant from 1912 to 1922 and Eufaula boarding school from 1922 to 1928. She was a homemaker who loved stray animals, sewing, quilting, crafts, cooking and baking. Scott was a member of Arbeka Baptist Church near Bryant and joined the Springfield United Methodist church in 1935. She loved her church life and a strong faith in the Lord. At Springfield UIMC she was a Women's Leader, a member of the United Methodist Women's Club, and a Sunday school teacher, as well as being a delegate to the Indian Missionary Conference. She was a member and elder of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, son, John Ellis "Sundala" Scott; two brothers; George "Bamey" Looney and Sullivan Looney; and two sisters: Becky B. Looney and Beck L. "Beggy" Looney.

She is survived by two sons Jesse (Sousa) Scott of Weleetka, Vernon D. Yarholar of Oklahoma City; one daughter, Frances (Hokte) Scott Girty of Lawrence, KS, 15 grandchildren. Gary Girty of Tahlequah, Steve, Sherry, and Kerry Girty of Lawrence, KS, Sandra Pringle of Okmulgee, Suzanne Hicks, Jesse E Scott, Travis Scott, and Ruth "Ellen" Bible of Okemah, Stacy

Scott of Weleetka, Robyn York of Germantown, MD, Alexis Crosley of Bristow, and Brittany Ryan and D.J. Yarholar of Oklahoma City; 21 great-grandchildren; five nephews; three nieces; 20 great-nephews and great-nieces; and a host of friends.

Pallbearers were: Dempsey Micco, Johnny Micco, Clarence Yarholar, Thomas Yarholar, Gene Berryhill, Jim Humble, and Mike Little.

Honorary pallbearers were: Barton Looney, Sandy Barnett, Solomon Fields, Albert Berryhill, Wiley Scott.

Interment was at the Yarholar-Scott family cemetery.

EDNA YAHOLA

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Edna Yahola were held Jan 28 at High Spring Baptist church with Revs. Wayne Harjo, George Doyle, and Felix Tiger officiating.

Wake services were held Jan. 27 at High Spring Baptist church.

She died Jan. 24 in Okemah. She was born Sept. 2, 1902 in Schuler to March Monday and Lizzie London Randall Monday, she belonged to the Bear clan. At the age of eight she and her sister, Annie, age six were orphaned by the death of their mother from an epidemic-type illness which hit the Okmulgee area around 1910. They were sent to live with Albert and Yarna Burgess. They attended boarding school at Nuyaka Mission where she learned to play basketball and first met her future husband, Willie E. Yahola.

They later attended Dwight Mission where she played on their basketball team. After leaving Dwight Mission, the girls attended Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kansas. where she met Willie again before he left for Okemah.

On Aug. 24, 1920 she married Willie in Okmulgee. He left her at her brother's home and returned to Okemah to build her a house on his allotment, where she lived until her death. After over 50 years of marriage, he preceded her in death on Nov. 28, 1973. She was a homemaker and devoted to High Spring Baptist church and her church family. She was their oldest member and considered the mother of the church. She served the church as secretary, WUM treasurer and Sunday school teacher. She was also a delegate to the Muskogee, Seminole, and Wichita Indian Baptist Association and the convention. Her Christian example influenced several youth to enter the Lord's service as preachers, deacons and other leaders of the church. She wrote many obituaries in the Creek Language for ministers who couldn't read English. She opened her home to visiting ministers that were coming to High Spring.

Yahola taught about her cultural heritage and did many demonstrations on the preparation of food in the public schools at Okemah. Her hobbies included gardening, fishing, sewing, reading, playing piano, singing, telling Indian stories, and preparing cultural foods. In her lifetime she experienced various events such

as the total eclipse of the sun in the 1920s. As she remembered it, blackeye peas were ready for harvest, she had invited neighbors to come and pick some. Before they were able to finish it began to darken so much that even the chickens went to roost. The neighbors had to wait until it lightened up again to pick peas.

During WWI, Willie had boarded a train in Okemah and was off to war in his uniform. Edna went to see him off and waited but the train did not leave; after time had passed, Willie got off the train. "The war was over" was the word, so they went home.

As modernization came into their lives, they experienced electricity and first free television in Okemah. Edna and Willie would load up the children and head for Okemah to Power's TV store, where a television was displayed in the window and turned on for the public to watch.

Even though she was orphaned, she had numerous relatives, including the family names of Bland, Randall, Burgess, Monday, Thompson, Wind, Haney, Hardridge, Powell, and London.

Yahola was preceded in death by two daughters, Berdina Minnie Yahola and Elizabeth Yahola; two brothers, Jackson Lewis Monday and Martin Monday and her sister Annie Monday Tiger.

She is survived by: one son Raymond Ellis Yahola of Oklahoma City; four daughters, LaDonna Yahola-Sharp of Okemah, Lowena Yahola-Birdsong, of Dallas, TX, Novena Yahola of Irving, TX and Madelina Yahola-Seago of Carrollton, TX; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Chris Dunson, Joseph Dunson, Dug Sharp, Terry Yahola, Justin Yahola, Daniel Dunson, Bradley Wilson, Ricky Cantrell, Phil Jackson, Bob Jackson, Kelly Sadongei, and Jeffery Phillips.

Honorary pallbearers were: Jerry Monday, Leo Bland, Sid Birdsong, John Lewis, Percy Sharp, Darrell Tiger, Eugene Harjo and Joseph Harjo.

Interment was at Yahola family cemetery.



Yahola

Gratitude

We would like to extend and express our gratitude to those that offered us support through the loss of our loved one.

We would like to thank everyone that attended funeral services and sent cards, flowers, plants, and food in honor of our mother-grandmother. Special thanks is extended to: John Fixico; George Doyle; Jimmy Alexander; and Roger Barnett.

Thank You.

Caroline Harry Family

We would like to thank everyone who brought food, flowers, and offered prayers and words of comfort during the loss of our son and grandson.

Special thanks to: Middle Creek #1 Church; Hudson's Funeral Home; Joe W. Bruner; Jimmy Alexander; uncle Bill Alexander; Johnson Roberts; Edwin Jimboy; Richard Harjo; and Cecelia Ackerman for the special music.

Also, to Carl Albert Hospital's obstetrician nurses and staff, Dr. Keith, and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services.

MVTO.

Lymhe Toby Watson Family

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	23	0	0	0	0
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	5,309	73,543	0	304	73,239
TREASURY	282,332	258,896	0	64,598	194,298
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	7,887	94,477	0	27,263	67,214
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,178,691	1,349,297	0	1,281,706	67,591
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	1,820,328	900,000	0	876,876	23,124
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	1,986,644	2,066,885	0	1,862,358	204,527
CONSUMER LOANS	21,865	58,767	0	54,725	4,042
CREEK NATION BINGO	1,514,568	2,086,824	0	1,791,741	295,083
CN PERMANENT FUND	1,288,585	483,102	0	331,065	152,037
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	673,803	0	0	28,598	(28,598)
BEAR STEARNS PERM FUND	(297,209)	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	1,490	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL BUDGET	75,750	557,025	0	532,429	24,596
MOTOR VEHICLE	832,040	238,988	0	235,191	3,797
JTPA TITLE IV-A 97	486,689	512,358	0	486,689	25,669
JTPA TITLE IV-A 98	105,865	652,666	0	105,865	546,801
SUMMER YOUTH 98	484,458	574,312	0	484,458	89,854
WELFARE TO WORK	7,411	548,353	0	7,411	540,942
CCDBG 96	184,457	184,457	0	184,457	0
CCDBG 97	624,733	1,787,154	0	624,733	1,162,421
ICDBG/INDIAN HOME PROGRAM	0	256,674	0	256,674	0
NAHASDA/EMER. HOME IMPROV	237,087	237,087	0	237,087	0
DIVISION, C & F SERVICES	(98)	0	0	(98)	98
DRUG COURT	1,960	4,270	0	1,863	2,407
CCDBG 95	356,932	357,031	0	356,932	99
LIHEAP 97	55,589	55,589	0	55,589	0
CCDBG 96	806,461	1,252,276	0	806,461	445,815
FAMILY PRES 97	132,521	161,134	0	132,521	28,613
CCDBG 97	1,822,702	2,537,478	0	1,822,702	714,776
HEAD START 97	368,887	419,106	0	368,887	50,219
TITLE IV-B 97	32,915	32,915	0	32,915	0
FAMILY VIOLENCE 97	127,630	158,532	0	127,630	30,902
LIHEAP 98	129,343	139,863	0	129,343	10,520
FAMILY PRESERVATION 98	356	166,023	0	356	165,667
CCDBG 98 MANDATORY FUNDS	359,008	2,274,145	0	359,008	1,915,137
CCDBG 98 CONSTRUCTION	15,000	750,030	0	15,000	735,030
HEAD START 98	877,099	1,527,520	0	877,099	650,421
TITLE IV-B 98	99,958	233,402	0	99,958	133,444
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	4,178	4,217	0	4,178	39
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGAT	0	13,485	0	0	13,485
FOOD DISTRIBUTION 98	373,764	391,466	0	373,764	17,702
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,080	0	0	0	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	26,436	28,300	0	3,513	24,787
HEADSTART USDA REIMBUR	63,825	92,460	0	63,825	28,635
EUFULA DORM ACTIVITY	46,447	0	0	0	0
ELECTION BOARD	376	6,006	0	5,398	608
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	7,253	5,400	0	5,387	13
REVOLVING FUND	277	4,883	0	3	4,880
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	3,833,280	4,053,864	0	3,833,280	220,584
NAGPRA	44,899	46,978	0	44,899	2,079
PORTABLE EXHIBIT	0	4,738	0	0	4,738
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	7,644	7,644	0	7,644	0
EUFULA DORMITORY 96	82,261	83,092	0	82,261	831
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	348,811	668,096	0	348,811	319,285
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV 96	5,443	5,443	0	5,443	0
KELLYVILLE BRIDGE	0	138,380	0	0	138,380
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 96	250	0	0	0	0
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 97	2,550	3,079	0	2,550	529
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	70,799	70,799	0	70,799	0
EUFULA DORMITORY 97	1,113,019	1,517,592	0	1,113,019	404,573
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV 97	39,597	39,597	0	39,597	0
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 98	14,280	14,868	0	14,280	588
JOHNSON O'MALLEY 98	892,837	951,947	0	892,837	59,110
EUFULA DORMITORY 98	32,673	430,708	0	32,673	398,035
TRANSPORTATION IMPR. 98	2,802	52,296	0	2,862	49,494
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	81,702	155,244	0	81,702	73,542
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM	68,554	89,718	0	68,554	21,164
COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT	242,842	529,355	0	242,842	286,513
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	418,406	0	0	121,421	(121,421)
ICDBG/LEARNING CENTER	682,604	682,604	0	682,604	0
TRIBAL AGRIC PROGRAM	2,942	26,033	0	54,523	(28,490)
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	366,782	462,289	0	375,611	86,678
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	0	0	0	1	(1)
COMMUNICATION REVLING FU	1,081	1,462	0	2,259	(797)
MCN FLAGS & ETC.	264	3,459	0	3,459	0
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	39,969	139,017	0	64,257	74,760
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	104,960	376,660	0	1,929	374,731
CN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	31,676	0	0	3,573	(3,573)
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0	0	0	205,059	(205,059)
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST	68	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENT TRUST	771,096	0	0	56,496	(56,496)
TRIBAL-REAL PROP & FACILITIE	895,459	791,527	0	947,907	(156,380)
TRIBAL-PROPERTY & SUPPLY	148,522	188,353	0	184,726	3,627
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	179,737	176,797	0	152,487	24,310
DEPT OF JUSTICE	0	0	0	95	(95)
CN FOUND SCHOLARSHIP FUND	4,106	0	0	5,130	(5,130)
TOTALS	27,764,620	35,248,035	0	24,861,992	10,386,043

Quarterly treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Sept. 30, 1998 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. These figures are not audited.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending Sept. 30, 1998. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on a grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the first three quarters ending Sept. 30, 1998.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved as of Sept. 30, 1998 in the annual comprehensive budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **unencumbered** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Sept. 30, 1998.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.



The Muscogee Nation News

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July 1999, 16 pages

Filing dates scheduled

OKMULGEE — The candidate filing dates for the offices of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief, second chief, and National Council have been set from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 16 through 18.

Filing fees are set at \$150 — National Council representative; \$375 — second chief; and \$500 — principal chief.

Candidates must file in person at the Muscogee Nation Election Board located on the tribal capitol complex. The nonrefundable fee must be paid by money order, cashier's or certified check.

Tribal Election Dates
Primary election — Sept. 18
General election — Dec. 4

To be eligible for the office of principal or second chief candidates must:

- be at least one-fourth degree Muscogee and-or Yuchi;
- be an enrolled full citizen of the Muscogee Tribe;
- be a registered tribal voter;
- be 30 years of age or older; and
- reside within the jurisdiction of the Muscogee Nation boundaries for one year prior to filing.

To be eligible for National Council office candidates must:

- be at least one-fourth degree Muscogee and-or Yuchi;
- be an enrolled full citizen of the Muscogee Tribe;
- be a registered tribal voter;
- be 18 years of age or older; and
- reside within the district filed as a candidate for one full calendar year prior to filing; and
- not have had felony convictions within the last 10 years.

Holdenville girl named Miss Mvskoke

OKMULGEE — Kandice Buck was named 1999-2000 Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation at the annual pageant held during Festival weekend.

Buck is not a newcomer to tribal pageantry; she was first runner-up to the Junior Miss Mvskoke Nation title in 1997. Of her receipt of the MMCN title she exclaimed, "I always dreamed of becoming Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation."

For the talent category, the 17-year-old gave a motivational speech, directed at her peers, which stressed staying in school and self-respect. Buck hopes to travel to schools and address youth similarly in her capacity as MMCN. She believes the title will help offer her the recognition necessary to get the message across to youth.

She belongs to the Bird Clan and New Tulsa Tribal Town and is a member of Many Springs Baptist Church. Buck, who will be a senior at Holdenville High School, is also involved in the following school and extracurricular activities: Native American Student Council president, three years; "Limited Edition" — a HHS choir whose members are selected through audition, three years; band — flute, three years; school mascot, 1997-98 school year; and "Third Generation" — a newly-formed gospel singing group.

She is a participant in the Muscogee Nation Job Training Partnership Act Summer Youth program and is working at Twin Rivers Head Start.

The title has the potential to offer her a taste of the counseling career she intends to pursue. Buck said she would like to obtain that degree from either Northeastern State University or Oklahoma State

University. Not only will the title afford her on-the-job training, but she will also get to incorporate



photo by Gerald Wofford
Newly crowned Miss MCN Kandice Buck pictured with Chief Beaver.

talents that come naturally — singing and meeting people.

Her parents are Gerald and Greta Buck. Her maternal grandparents are Doreen Buck and Blackie and Judy Buck, all of Holdenville.

Weather rains out Festival

OKMULGEE — Low attendance at the 25th Annual Creek Nation Festival is attributed to weekend rains that were responsible for canceling the fastpitch softball tournament.

Last year the Festival drew crowds numbering around 10,000; crowds attending this year's Festival were considerably lower, Kathy Guthrie, committee member, said. At press time figures for attendance and revenue generated from the 1999 Festival were not available.

A new Creek Nation Festival Fastpitch Softball Tournament will be held Aug. 27 through 29. The entry fee is \$175 per team and is limited to the first 20 teams that submit their fees. For more information, contact Coordinators Bill Dowdy or Ruby Booker at (918) 756-8700, extensions 361 or 244.

Muscogee woman spreads message of prevention and hope

When Europeans encountered the Maskoke in the 16th century, not only did they arrive with their new world ideology, but new disease as well.

In the last 100 years native people have experienced their share of epidemic disease. In the early part of this century German influenza and yellow fever were two of the most dreaded killers. As modern medicine improved once deadly diseases such as influenza were no longer life-threatening. This century another disease thought



Tiger

to be beyond prevention was subdued — polio has been virtually wiped out today with the advent of vaccines. Tuberculosis, a once confining disease, has been put under through the medical technology. This century has certainly seen its share of potential medical killers — but none like the disease called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Since AIDS has manifested itself to the world community, the effects of this pandemic have been staggering. Between 1990 and 1997, global cases of individuals infected with the virus that causes AIDS — human immunodeficiency virus — tripled from 9.8 million to 30.3 million. In 1999, 47 million people are estimated to have HIV — nearly five times as many as in 1990. American Indians have not been sheltered from this virus. In 1997 there was a reported

please see TIGER..., page 3

Letters to the editor

Festival chair appreciates assistance

Editor:

On behalf of the Festival Committee, I would like to thank all coordinators and volunteers who assisted with the events and work that is required with putting on such an event. I want to also express our appreciation to all the donations received from local vendors, bingo halls, as well as from the National Council. The Festival will not survive without such assistance.

I would like to clarify a situation regarding the solicitation of monies in the name of the tribal Festival. An individual, not affiliated with the Festival Committee, solicited a donation from a chartered tribal community for a Festival event. The Festival Committee did not authorize this action and, to this date, have no records as to use of the donation. As chairperson, I feel that the Festival Committee cannot accept any liability for this unauthorized solicitation for funds. Any concerns should be directed to the concerned community and individual.

Serving as Festival chairperson was a very enlightening experience — I learned that such a production requires many hours before, during and after the event. I would like to recognize the few people who went above and beyond the call of duty to put this event together: Danny Roberts; Bill Dowdy; Dean Williams; Bob Arrington; Leo Moppin; and Jim Basquez. Although a rainout was impending, these individuals offered their full effort to make the Festival work.

The Festival Committee has begun to work on next year's festivities — I encourage citizens to approach me with recommendations for a better event. I will be ecstatic to accept any commitments for event coordination and/or Festival Committee membership. Mvto. Curtis Hicks, Hitchita

Election Board seeks to contact voters

Editor:

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board has failed to contact the following individuals because of undeliverable addresses; the following individuals are requested to contact the election board office at (918) 756-8700 ext. 350 or 349 as soon as possible:

Lewis F. Barb; Mildred L. Bettis; Pamela J. Bushouse; David F. Cahwcc; James O. Burton; Elizabeth Clemmer; Shirley A. Cline; Teresa M. Cron; Dean M. Daniel; Charles Fixico Jr.; Charles A. Foster; Addie F. George; Ruben D. George; Stephen R. George; Bethel R. Goode; Beverly Grummitt; Virginia A. Guild; Opal N. Harjo; Jeffery B. Hartung; Kelly D. Hodge; Francis J. Hodges; Gwen M. Holloway; Micco T. Isocogee; DeForest A. Lozier; Linval Magel; Julius J. Martinez; Emma J. Moore; Kellie L. O'Connor; Kyle A. Perryman; Lyle N. Perryman; Paul K. Perryman; Ammella M. Revis; Ruben D. Self; Charlene K. Sharp; Nellie F. Skaggs; Sandra E. Terrell; Thomas B. Tiger; Leonard H. Tolbert; Alberta Vontress; Jared L. Ware; Pamela R. Weaver; Kevin E. Wheeler; Millicent Barnett; Mary L. Black; Stephen J. Braswell; Paula J. Brownlow; Douglas R. Brunner; John D. Bruner; Elizabeth S. Bruner; John D. Bruner; Gloria Campbell; Lahoma F. Campbell; Michell R. Carter; Kathy D. Coulter; Margurette Crowell; Susan Doyle; Evelyn A. Easley; Betty G. Enriquez; Christy B. Estep; Dewey Francis; Claudette S. Furr; Deborah V. Garcia; Brenda J. Goodman; Leigh A. Hammer; Shona R. Hamon; Belvin J. Hill; Shirley Hilson; Konawv J. Holloway; Timmie W. Jackson; Kenneth D. Jackson; Lizzie Lewis; Daniel McCutcheon; Tyloa E. McIntosh; Dathy A.

McNabb; Vincent L. Mendoza; Barbara J. Morgan; Anthony M. Narcomey; Bernice E. Narcomey; Blanche A. Narcomey; Cri Cri Nichols; Eldon L. Northcutt; Frances L. Pace; Donal W. Pagos; Lucy M. Perkins; Paul T. Pittman; Raymond Quinones; Lori L. Scott; Samuel N. Scott; Jerry K. Skaggs; Terri Lyn Smith; Wanda L. Smith; John C. Smock; Aimee C. Smoot; Brenda L. So; Florence Springer; Connie R. Taylor; Eric Tiger; George S. Tiger; Zachariah Anderson; Robert J. Baker Jr.; Larry J. Brown; Jake Bruner; Louis L. Bruner; Wadie L. Buckley; Lea Ana Burkhardt; Debra K. Clifton; Brenda Coachman; James Coachman; Wanda L. Davis; Johnny W. Harjo; Mary A. Harjo; Lynnelle J. Hartley; Johnnie W. Henry; Camille A. Herrod; Heather D. Horton; David A. Johnson; Kenneth R. Jones; Thomas L. LaValley; Cynthia L. Leader; Johny Leitka; Linda L. Lena; David W. Lindsey; Richard McNeveins; Regina Roby-McVay; Virginia Matthews; Eddie Moffer Jr.; Sandra F. Moses; Wanda Moses; Dana L. Musgrove; Viola M. Nease; Manuel Noriega; Marjo O'Dell; Vickie L. l'Bregon; Lauren C. Payne; Joe E. Phillips Jr.; Gerald D. Scott; Willmott Scott Jr.; John R. Shahnegro; Judy K. Shed; Curtis J. Smith; Ramona J. Voisine; Sallie M. Wise; Warren G. Wolf; Asi Yahola; Jeffrey Yahola; David S. Yargee; Tony R. Yargee; Brigita Young; Chris D. Admek; Lauren M. Adams; Nancy M. Adams; Neal Adams; Paula S. Adams; Charles E. R. Alden; Mark W. Allen; Bluford W. Allen; Christina R. Allen; Michael J. Anderson; Solomon Anderson; Carol A. Arbuckle; Russell L. Ashley; Danielle K. Austin; Rhett L. Barrett; Delores A. Barron; Janet K. Bear; Susan L. Bear; Ben T. Bear; Cassandra Bennett; Myrtle M. Bennett; Charles Berryhill; Larry M. Berryhill; Mark D. Berryhill; Donna Birdcreek; Dolores M. Bonitz; Sherri L. Britt; Robert S. Brown; Nathaniel Burgess; Susan Van Burshirk; Wanda Byrd; Angela J. Chavez; Roman Checota Jr.; Michael Christiansen; Billye J. Clark; Mitchell S. Collins; Sherry Condict; Arthur Coon Jr.; Mary N. Cooper; Jerry E. Cox; Jerome H. Curry; Hugh N. Davis; James H. Day; Mella M. Davis; Elsie Douglas; Ronald D. Duncan; Bessie L. Dunham; Mark E. Dunn; Daryl G. Dunson; Mathew G. Duvall; Arron P. Eads; Ira V. Eads; Melba V. Eads; Rachel A. Eads; Gary M. Epperson; Lydia Factor; Ronald L. Feken; Barbara S. Fitch; Dawn Foster; Michell K. Freeman; Fannie Fry; Johnny Frye; Mary E. Goddard; Cynthia Goodrich; Carrie C. Gray; Walter L. Gray; Walter E. Gray; Kevin A. Green; Arby N. Haggard; Debbie S. Hale; Eddie E. Harding; Nancy R. Harjo; Naomi R. Harjo; Ted W. Harjo; Lisa A. Hayes; James Henson Jr.; Henry H. Holleyman; Eva B. Hull; Thomas J. Jackson; Gary Johnson; Ronald Johnson; Charles A. Jones; Lillian Jordan; Anita Keller; Gregory Keith; Jessie W. Lewis; Cilla Litsey; James R. Litsey; Rickey W. Logsdon; Charlene Lovelace; Bobby D. Floyd; James E. McElroy; Maggie M. Mahoney; Billy J. Marks; Katrina D. Matheson; Betty P. Miller; Brenda J. Mills; Eugene C. Melton; Chris S. Mitchell; Shelly D. Norman; Mary C. Oliver; Yolanda A. Otero; Jerry W. Posey; Dale A. Prevett; Isla M. Ridgway; Richard C. Rinehart; Russell F. Rhindhart; Alice L. Roach; Cynthia M. Robbins; Stella P. Atkins; Vanessa J. Hill; Michael G. Pittman; Bernice Proctor; Taya J. Vaughn; Benny R. Wadsworth; John P. Wadsworth; Laura K. Wadsworth; Judy Williams; William B. Young; Jason A. Zielke; Roberta S. Zielke; Jerry W. Archer; Alice R. Badgett; Rozan Beaty; Trenton Breshers; Terri L. Brock; Gay L. Myers; Tonya D. Poindexter; Rosalious Robinson; Debra L. Rosborough; Jo L. Smith; Ray E. Stoeber; Marilyn Tarkington; Alex Wacoche; Judy K. Warren; Dana E. Waters; Susan K. Back; David Bear;

Madeline Bearchum; Vera A. Capps; Stacie P. Carroll; Ora M. Day; Don J. Davis; Mord H. Deere; Annalis Doyle; Kristin Ellsworth; Wenona D. Fixico; Kristina Griffin; John M. Grimes; Lou E. Harley; Ruby L. Hardin; Katherine L. Hill; Francis J. Hodges; James R. Hughes; Karen Inderlied; Diane Johnson; Tracey K. Johnston; Jimmy D. Kelough; Terry D. King; Paula J. Lane; Gary L. Langston; Mary C. Lindsey; Alice H. Mannon; Merideth A. Musick; Erick D. Noah; Willie Panosky; Franklin D. Proctor; Marcus W. Proctor; Cindy L. Reeves; Faith P. Rometo; Rickey L. Sands; Charlotte J. Sawatzky; Joe M. Scott; Louise M. Smith; Thomas K. Smith; Jerry W. Spain; Ray H. Spain; William K. Taylor; Franzetta Thompson; Helen K. Thompson; Mark E. Tiger; Karen K. Tilley; Trent O. Tilley; Jimmy D. Tompkins; Blaine N. West; Jess A. Wind III; Wanda F. Wolf; Vernon D. Yarholar; Charley L. Russell; Marilyn Seestedt; Yahola Simms II; Wanda F. Wolf; Vernon D. Yarholar; Charley L. Russell; Marilyn Seestedt; Yahola Simms II; Nancy J. Shobe; Margo R. Smith; Robert F. Stewart; Polly E. Sullivan; Juanita J. Switzer; Prince S. Taryole; Beverly K. Thames; Maurietta A. Thomas; Sarah E. Traylor; Charlotte G. Vrazel; Dorena L. Wakatani; Peggy S. West; David M. Wiley; and Roscoe Wolfe.

Nettie Harjo, Okmulgee

Editor's note: Nettie Harjo is the manager of the Muscogee Nation Election Board office.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephenie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE— The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the June 26 regular session.

An extraordinary session was held June 3, although voting records were not available at press time.

Absent were: **Roy Bear**, Creek District; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District.

Speaker Kenneth Childers conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business it:

- approved (19-3) National Council Act 99-02, establishing a sales tax code within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The tax will be administered at six percent on all items of value and goods bought, sold, rented, leased or exchanged from vendors on tribal land after Oct. 1, 1999. Among the code's 20 exemptions are: sales of goods derived directly from tribal land owner's property; and sales by individual enrolled Muscogee tribal citizens, chartered communities, churches, ceremonial grounds, or other recognized Muscogee tribal organizations that conduct sales on tribal land without benefit of a permanent sales location and on a random basis or by use of a vending machine;

voting yes were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **David Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **George Tiger**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

voting no were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; and **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee;

- approved (17-5) to return to committee NCA 99-29, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of funds for expenses related to the preparation of graves for tribal citizens;

voting no were: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; and **Smith**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-71, authorizing a special appropriation at \$79,524 for the tribal office of public gaming to increase staffing and to complete the remainder of fiscal year 1999;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-76, amending NCA 88-70 to authorize the Nation's controller to delegate limited signature authority to certain bonded employees, to increase the controller's signature authority on checks to \$50,000, and to provide for the use of wire transfers to funds between accounts owned by the Muscogee Nation and to the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation, with an amendment;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-77, authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$36,157 to the Nation's election board to conduct the Sept. 18 primary election, with an amendment;

- failed to approve (7-15) NCA 99-78, authorizing Management Compensation Group to initiate a tribal burial assistance program through a group life insurance program;

voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Harjo**, Okmulgee; **King**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Smith**, Okfuskee; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-80, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the tribal burial assistance program in the amount of \$51,000. The tribal social services department had depleted its FY 99 funding because of an increase in deaths among tribal citizens;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-81, appropriating funds to send 25 elder tribal citizens to the American Indian Elders Conference to be held in Oklahoma City in August, with an amendment to change the expenditure from \$6,040 to \$5,150;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-82, appropriating up to \$10,000 in matching funds for qualifying Muscogee Nation Festival Top Gun League teams to participate in the National World Series Touma-

makes her story special. Instead of feeling bitter, hiding out, and losing hope, Lisa chose to make her story known to the world, specifically the Native American community.

Lisa grew up embracing life as any normal child does. She was a high school cheerleader and a diver on the school swimming team. Lisa was her high school homecoming queen and she even coached a local boxing team. Physical fitness always a priority, she became a certified aerobics instructor and competed as a class I gymnast. She would also win awards in high school for her artwork. Since the discovery of her disease, Lisa has made it her cause to tell others, especially Native Americans, about this potential killer. She has spoken at schools, reservations, conferences, and anywhere where her message will be received.

Today, Lisa works in her family's Muskogee art

ment. The Top Gun League consists of 14 competitive fast pitch softball teams. The players' age range is from 10 to 18; 75 percent of the league participants are American Indian;

- approved (21-0) NCA 99-83, adding professional engineers to the list of professionals who may be compensated in an amount exceeding the compensation of the principal chief and repealing section 103 of NCA 96-23;

Lewis, Okmulgee District, did not vote.

- approved (18-2-2) NCA 99-84, authorizing the expenditure of \$164,380 for the initial start-up costs for a community business enterprise named "Tulsa Hece Wholesale," a wholesale distributing business venture of Tulsa Creek Indian Community. The state corporation — wholly owned by TCIC — under a license from the State of Oklahoma, will serve all tobacco retailers within the state. Its initial supplier will be Omaha Tobacco Company; the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska owns the cigarette manufacturer. The cigarettes are expected to retail at the lowest current market price, allowing TCIC to penetrate a greater number of market areas;

voting no were: **Chupco**, Muskogee and **Lowe**, Tukvptce;

abstaining were: **Little**, Muskogee and **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-85, statutory provisions for certain procedures with respect to the financial, personnel, rule-regulations and management of the tribal judicial branch;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-86, approving an architect to conduct architectural services for construction of two Head Start centers — Sapulpa and Eufaula — and appropriating said architectural services at \$25,000;

- approved unanimously (22-0) Tribal Resolution 99-24, confirming **Charlotte Anderson** to the Muscogee Nation Citizenship Board. Anderson is a tribal citizen residing in Beggs;

- approved unanimously (22-0) TR 99-25, authorizing the controller to establish accounts at banking, investment, and other financial institutions for the purpose of managing and administering the Nation's funds;

- approved unanimously (22-0) TR 99-26, approving the selection of contractors for major rehabilitation work for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation and authorizing the housing authority to execute contracts for such major rehabilitation work; and

- approved unanimously (22-0) TR 99-27, approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute a professional service contract with Branch Law Firm to represent the Nation's interest in litigation against the tobacco industry.

In items for consideration the Council:

- approved (21-0-1) NCA 99-89, a cultural preservation act appropriating \$1,500 to Tahlahvse Ceremonial Ground for its Green Corn Ceremony;

Abstaining was **Yahola**, Tukvptce District; and

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 99-90, a cultural preservation act — a special appropriation to fund repairs needed at Fish Pond Ceremonial Ground. The appropriation — \$1,749 — will be used to repair several permanent camp structures and the driveway to the ground.

Tiger

continued from page 1

1,783 AIDS cases among American Indians.

Many people have taken up the cause against this disease by demanding research to find a cure and educating the world through preventative measures. One of these people is a Muscogee tribal member **Lisa Tiger**.

On July 5, 1992, Lisa, of Muskogee, found out that she was HIV positive. Contracted through a former boyfriend, Lisa, like anyone, was shocked that this could actually happen to her. "I thought it [AIDS] was on the west coast, the east coast... I thought Oklahoma would be the last place it would get to."

Lisa, like other Native Americans before and after her, had to face reality. The reality of dealing with a deadly disease. This, in itself, makes her story no different than others who have had to deal with the disease. It is how she chose to deal with it that

Tribal news

Arrivals and births

Cheyenne Nicole Bunny

MOUNDS — Cheyenne Nicole Bunny was born April 5 at St. Francis Hospital to Monty and Vicki Bunny.

Bunny weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19 and one quarter inches in length.

Her maternal grandparents are Wanda and Wallace Clyma. Paternal grandparents are Emily King and the late Clarence "Dick" Bunny.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Charley "Micco" King and Lilly Starr Berryhill.

She is a member of the Alligator Clan and Arbeka Tulladega Tribal Town.



Bunny

Dacia Renee Starr

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Dacia Renee Starr was born April 10 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital to Shannon and LaShane Starr.

Dacia weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Daniel and Linda Miller of Lawrence. Her paternal grandmother is Emma Starr of Morris.

She is the great granddaughter of the late Eli and Lena Starr of Henryetta.



Starr

Toddler celebrates second birthday

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gunnar K.C. LaMere celebrated his second birthday with a Blue's Clues party held at his grandparents home.

LaMere turned two on April 17. He is the son of Sehoya Tecumseh LaMere.

His maternal grandparents are: Anita and Buddy Cox of Oklahoma City and Andrew and Louise Tecumseh of Okmulgee. Paternal grandparents are Marilyn LaMere of Wisconsin Dells, Wis. and Anthony Barker of Sisseton, S.D.

He is the great grandson of: Robert Freeman of Okmulgee; Evelyn and the late Andy Tecumseh of Okmulgee; and Hepsey B. Ray of Joplin, Mo.

He belongs to the Alligator Clan of Coweta Tribal Town.



LaMere

Anderson selected as July employee of the Month

OKEMAH — Fredo S. Anderson, tribal employment and training office job developer, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's July employee of the month.

Anderson's duties consist of finding employment for tribal citizens.

He attended college at Bacone in Muskogee and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

He and his wife, Pat, reside in Okemah. They have been married for 41 years. They have four children: Woody; Derrick; Regenia; and Shelly. He is the grandfather of 10.

He has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for 24 years.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Girl celebrates her third birthday

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio — Alexandria Mosquito celebrated her third birthday on June 5.

She is the daughter of Jacob and Misty Mosquito.

Alexandria was the Little Miss Muskogee Nation, Division I for 1998-99.

She is the granddaughter of Craig and Debbie Mosquito of Mounds and Eddie and Beth Shelton of Middleton.

Mosquito is the daughter of the Bird Clan and Tulsa Canadian Tribal Town.



Mosquito

Programs

Citizenship to issue new cards in city

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board will be collecting old citizenship cards from enrolled tribal citizens and replacing them with citizenship cards with photo identification.

This service will be offered on the Oklahoma City University campus from 1 to 5 p.m., Aug. 7 at Noble Center's Tucker Hall, located at Northwest 23rd and

Blackwelder.

Citizens must submit their old cards and provide their Social Security card. If old citizenship cards are lost or misplaced, there will be a \$5 charge for issuing the new card.

To receive the new card, individuals must be at least 18 years of age. Applications for enrollment will be available as well.

For more information, contact the Creek Nation Citizenship Board at (918) 756-8700, ext. 224.

Tiger

continued from page 3

business along with her mother, Peggy, and sister, Dana. She is married to the former Kevin Kilcrease. After their marriage, Kevin took her family surname.

"I told him I would never change my name from Tiger, so he agreed to accept and change his name to mine." Lisa is the mother of four Lakota Sioux children: J.D., 11; Shelly, 10; Kayla, nine; and Michael, seven.

Lisa has taken good care of herself, adhering to the advice of her doctor. Although the virus is present in her body, she shows no symptoms of it. "Lots of vitamin C helps," Lisa believes.

Her message is simple; she knows that healthier life-styles are in the hands of each Native American,

please see **TIGER**..., page 15

Mason girl selected as most valuable player of tournament

DENVER — Jerri Culley won the most valuable player award at the 14th Annual All-West Native American Basketball Classic on June 6.

Her team was sponsored by United Native American Housing Authorities throughout the United States and was coached by Ed and Linda Moore.

Culley played with the Southern Plains Indian Housing Authority's Oklahoma All-Stars and won first place out 18 teams that participated. The team members were selected from different areas in Oklahoma.

She received: an MVP jacket, trophy, and sweat shirt; an all-tournament jacket; first place jacket; first place trophy; and was named to the all-star

tournament team for her efforts.

She celebrated her 17th birthday on June 6 also.

Culley attends Mason High School where she will be a senior.

She is the daughter of Farron and Irene Culley of Mason.

Her grandparents are Lorene and the late Paul Culley of Wetumka and the late Amos and Juanita Harjochee, Mason.

Other team members receiving honors were: Kim Lewis, top gun — for her three-point shooting accuracy and all-star tournament team; Angie Tilley, named most inspirational for her effort; and Jamie Frederick, all-star tournament team along with Culley.



Culley

24th annual Creek Nation Festival & Rodeo

layout & design by
Crystal Taylor, summer youth worker



Larry Morrow
of Okemah
addresses
the ball.



photo by Gerald Wofford



photo by Lucas Taylor



Texas Pascale enjoys
the mud at the festival



photo by Lucas Taylor

Creek Festival Archery

photo by Gerald Wofford



"Kingfisher" and "Set Me" prepare to do battle

photo by Lucas Taylor



Creek Festival 3 on 3 basketball

photo by Lucas Taylor



Olympic volunteer Floyd Jones eyes the
finish line.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Blues Nation's guitarist Sammy
Klircone gets down during the
blues festival.



photo by Gerald Wofford



Little Miss Muscogee Nation Division
I. winner Cassie Renee Jackson
poses with Chief Beaver.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Bob Pierce of Locust Grove tries to rope a calf



photo by Gerald Wofford

Division II. winner Kristen Michelle Frye



photo by Gerald Wofford

Proud father Chris Jackson kneels down to congratulate his daughter Cassie Renee on winning Division I title.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Pageant winners pictured, from left to right, are: Miss MCN, Kandice Buck; Miss MCN Jr. Miss, Renee Susan Jones; Division III, Megan Stayton; Division II, Kristen Michelle Frye; and Division I, Cassie Renee Jackson.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Miss MCN Jr. Miss Renee Susan Jones

Royalty...



photo by Gerald Wofford

Division III. winner Megan Stayton

Basketball...



photo by Lucas Taylor

We got next!



photo by Lucas Taylor

Patrick Jones lends a hand to an exhausted teammate after their victory.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Carl Mullins puts a spin move on Vernon Powell.



photo by Lucas Taylor

John Billy goes up hard to the basket while Eric 'Big E' Beatty prepares to go up and send it back.

Back-to-Back! The "Okmulgee Warriors", led by Ivan Bear, win the men's open division for the second year in a row.

photo by Lucas Taylor



"Redline" shortstop Dave Pascale hits a Big Mac type shot over the centerfield fence to help his team win a close fought ball game against the "Country Warriors".

photo by Lucas Taylor



Flamethrowing Jacob Mosquito of the "Tulsa Red Storm" warms up before the team takes the field.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Softball...



Archery, Golf & Lacrosse...

photo by Lucas Taylor



Creek Festival Archery

photo by Lucas Taylor



Creek Festival Archery

David Canard of Jenks puts in a little practice before his round



photo by Gerald Wolford

photo by Lucas Taylor



Team Okfuskee, four time team champions, waits for the next event to begin.

photo by Lucas Taylor



Wynter Wind prepares to start the first leg of the five and six year old 400 relay.

photo by Lucas Taylor



Sapulpa 10 & 11 year old boys placed second in the 400 relay. Pictured from left to right are: Patrick Littlebear; Brett Littlebear; Brett Alexander; and Dakota Greenfeather.

Moni Daniel looks intently to see if she will birdie

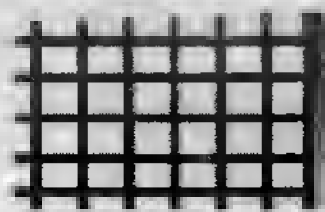


photo by Gerald Wolford

photo by Lucas Taylor



Sapulpa 10 & 11 year old girls placed first in the 400 relay. Pictured from left to right are: Sarah Fox; Chasity Stephens; Cherie Cassaday; and Stacie Littlehead.



Volleyball...



photo by Gerald Wofford

The team "Kingfisher" battles it out against "Set Me".

photo by Gerald Wofford



Chris McGirt of "Big Dog" gets ready to hit the ball against Chris Benally of "Spike Patrol".

photo by Brandy Earls



Landon Bunch goes for the block.

photo by Lucas Taylor



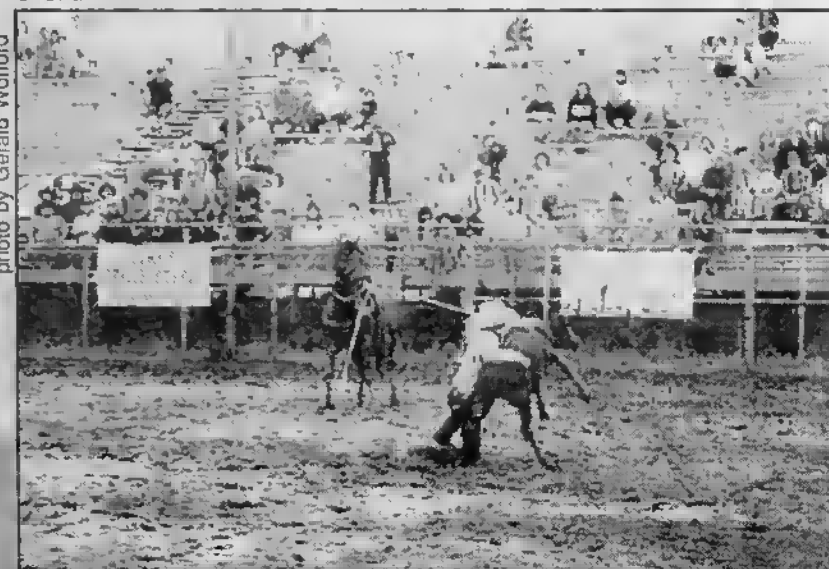
A.J. Jones prepares to elevate for a jump serve.

photo by Gerald Wofford



Mike Rock and Shannon Russell compete in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation team roping event.

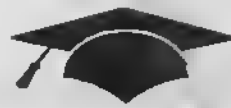
photo by Gerald Wofford



Shane Ross of Tahlequah brings down the 'doggie' in the calf roping event.



Rodeo...



Muscogee Nation Class of 1999



Del V. Beaver

Northeastern State University
Degree: bachelor of science in
environmental management

Parents: R. Perry and Mariam
Beaver of Jenks

Grandparents: the late Mr. and
Mrs. John Beaver, Morris, and the
late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bruner,
Lamar

Activities: Indian University
Scholar Society vice president; Native American Student Asso-
ciation; and American Indian Science and Engineering Society

Awards: Rennard Strickland Indian University Scholars Award
and Environmental Protection Agency Scholarship

Plans: working for the Bureau of Land Management in Anchor-
age, Alaska during the summer and attending graduate school in
the fall



John Running Beaver

Houston Homan Junior High School

Parents: Molline and the
late Rev. Richie Beaver of Eufaula

Awards: honor roll; National Junior
High Honor Society; All-American
Scholar; National English Merit
Award; and National Math Merit
Award

Activities: Okfuskee Baptist Church
member

Plans: to attend Florida State University after graduating from
high school



Balynda R. Bible

Preston Grade School

Parents: Teresa Bible of Glenpool

Grandparents: Norma Bible of
Preston

Awards: honor roll



Theresa Rae Blodgett

Leavenworth High School

Parents: Fred and Tina Blodgett of
Leavenworth, Wash.

Grandparents: Helen Sawyer of
Okmulgee; Bertha Blodgett of White
Swan, Wash.; the late R.L. Reeder;
and the late Fred Blodgett

Great-grandparents: the late
Amon and Beatrice Sawyer

Awards: sportsmanship award

Activities: 4-H; horseback riding; and working with animals

Plans: to attend Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence,
Kan. and later attend veterinarian school at Washington State
University



Sarah Deer

University of Kansas School of Law

Degree: juris doctor degree

Parents: Jan and Montie Deer of
Wichita, Kan.

Grandparents: Wanda Lee and
Kelso Deer of Fall River, Kan.

Awards: Native American Law
Student Association moot court
competition — second place, 1999,
third place, 1998

Activities: Native American Law Student Association and
partipated in the University of Kansas Tribal Law and Governance
Program

Plans: to work in Washington D.C.



**Kelly Michael Gile**

Mannford High School

Parents: Carolyn and Mike Schultz of Mannford

Grandparents: Calvin and Nedra Schoonover of Muskogee

Awards: National Honor Society, 1998-99; February student of the month, 1999; Oklahoma Honor Society, 1995-98; interscholastic athletic, 1995-99; scholar athlete, 1995-99; All-American Scholar, 1998-99; National Macy Scholar, 1998-99; and lettered in varsity basketball, cross country, and golf; Tulsa World Special Recognition All-State Team Basketball, 1999

Activities: student council president, 1998-99; Spanish club, 1995-99; Students Against Drunk Driving, 1995-99; science club, 1995-97; Mannford Sports Club, 1995-99;

Plans: to earn a degree in microbiology and attend medical school to become a pediatric cardiologist

**Adam Hollier**

Halley Magnet Middle School

Parents: Carl and Jacqui Hollier of Detroit, Mich.

Grandparent: Marcelle Adams Douglas

Great-grandparent: Ben McIntosh

Awards: academic, citizenship, and perfect attendance awards; Spirit of Detroit, Detroit City Council; Detroit Optimist Club Oratorical Contest, first place; and Metropolitan Science Fair, first place; Detroit Edison Company, second place for energy project;

Activities: Pirates Baseball team, league champions; played in little league "Tournament of Champions;" rookie of the year, football; and; placed top four in the 220 and 440 yard races, Michigan USA Track and Field Youth Indoor Championships

Plans: to study hard, excel in sports, and earn a full college scholarship

**Kim Howard**

Oklahoma State University

Degree: master's degree in trade and industrial education

Activities: Shamrock Baptist Church member

Plans: currently employed with Central Tech, Drumright Campus

**Benjamin Keolama'alahi Lindsey**

University of Hawaii

Degree: bachelor of arts in Hawaiian studies

Parents: Nancy and Ben Lindsey

Grandparents: Charles and Barbara Berryhill

Great-grandparents: Columbus and Maggie Berryhill

Plans: to continue education at University of Hawaii and pursue a career in in farming organic and native Hawaiian plants

**Jesse Little**

Arkoma High School

Parents: Buddy and Donna Little of Arkoma

Grandparents: Gus and Betty Harjo Watt of Westville

Awards: National Honor Society; Oklahoma Honor Society; all-conference in basketball; conference player of the year; LeFlore County All-Tour Team; LeFlore County All-Star; Kiamichi All-Star North Team; The Daily Oklahoman All-State Honorable Mention; and all-conference baseball

**Micah McDermott**

Bacone College

Degree: associate of science degree in resources management

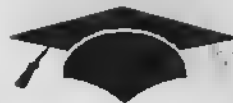
Parents: Sue and Leroy McDermott

Awards: presidents honor roll; outstanding humanities and outstanding natural resources awards

Activities: vice president of environmental society

Plans: to work for Oklahoma Fishing and Wild Life Department



**Jennifer Ruth Meyer**

Preston High School

Parents: Gordon and Sandy Meyer of Beggs

Grandparents: Dorothy Ellis Meyer of Beggs and Mr. and Mrs. George Lane of Phoenix, Ariz.

Activities: basketball; fast and slow pitch softball; basketball team manager; Preston Baptist Church member;

Awards: Oklahoma Honor Society; salutatorian; Who's Who Among American High School Students; and Connors State College scholastic meet awards in Spanish I and II, trigonometry, and chemistry.

Plans: to attend The University of Tulsa

**Sarah Jean Micco**

Weleetka High School

Parents: Teresa Bible of Glenpool and Wayne Micco of Oklahoma City

Grandparents: Norma Bible of Preston and Sarah Winney of Weleetka

**Jeffrey O'Dell**

The University of Oklahoma

Degree: bachelor of arts degree in Native American studies

Parents: Larry and Laura O'Dell of Caney, Kan.

Grandparents: Harmon and Anna Lee Wiley of Sapulpa and Lorence and Clarice O'Dell of Little Rock, Ark.

Plans: currently employed with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Development

**Shawna Kaye O'Neal**

Preston High School

Parents: Shawn and Barbara O'Neal of Twin Hills

Grandparents: Annie Mae and the late Richard O'Field of Twin Hills; and the late Irene O'Neal, Tulsa

Activities: basketball; softball; track; and Title 19 Indian Program Student Advisory member

Awards: Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee Short Story Contest, first place; salutatorian

Plans: she has signed a letter of intent to play softball at Connors State College

**Sonya Seber**

Sequoyah High School

Parent: Tahlia Seber

Grandparents: Martha and Charlie Squire

Plans: to attend Muskogee Vo-tech and then attend college

**Michael Allen Stopp**

Ft. Benning, Georgia

Parents: Melanie Sanders Stopp and Gary D. Stopp, both of Tahlequah

Grandparents: Phyllis and the late Samuel Sanders of Tahlequah; the late Amos Tiger, Okmulgee; Muriel Henry of Tahlequah; and the late George Henry, Tahlequah

Plans: currently stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kent. and will be attending the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, Ft. Monmouth, N.J.





Dawn Adrienne Thompson

Liberty Mounds High School

Parents: Carlin and Juanita Thompson of Duck Creek Community

Grandparents: July and the late Mae Tulsa of Duck Creek Community and Emily Dickerson and the late Fred Thompson of Ada

Activities: basketball; softball; and band; campus chaplain; and vo-tech class president

Awards: outstanding woodwind player; outstanding student; hardest greenhouse worker; Eastern Oklahoma State College scholastic meet — division II horticulture, third place; state skills championships for floral designs, sixth place; and Oklahoma Statesman Award; Eastern Oklahoma State College horticulture scholarship

Plans: to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College



Claudia Tyner

Oklahoma State University

Degree: master of science degree in educational technologies specializing in computer application

Parents: Claude and Belinda Byrd Tyner of Tulsa

Grandparents: the late Julia Harjo Byrd, Bill Tyner, and Vera Jamison

Awards: Vera Jones-Chancey Memorial Scholarship; Bartlesville Indian Women's Club Scholarship; and Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Scholarship

Plans: currently employed with the Iowa Tribe as education coordinator; she plans to get married, relocate to Miami, and seek employment in the education field.



Mekko Tyner

Haskell Indian Nations University

Degree: associate of arts in tribal management

Parents: Claude and Belinda Byrd Tyner of Tulsa

Grandparents: the late Julia Harjo Byrd, Bill Tyner, and Vera Jamison

Awards: dean's honor roll; two-year football letterman

Plans: to enroll in the baccalaureate business administration program with emphasis in tribal management at HINU



Vera Tyner-Hernandez

University of Oklahoma

Degree: bachelor's degree in botany,

Parents: Claude and Belinda Byrd Tyner of Tulsa

Grandparents: the late Julia Harjo Byrd, Bill Tyner, and Vera Jamison.

Awards: teaching assistantship from the department of botany and microbiology; George Lynn Cross Award; Sequoyah Heritage Award; Passage to Progress Scholarship; and Indian Health Service Scholarship;

Activities: Sequoyah Club; botany club and American Indian Student Association

Plans: to pursue a graduate degree in botany at The University of Oklahoma



Kristen Lynn Webb

Norman High School

Parents: David and Jeanne Webb of Norman

Grandparents: Opal and the late Lawrence Burgess of Norman and Ernest and Loene Webb of Noble

Awards: The University of Central Oklahoma honors recital finalist, 1998; and district and state solo contest superior ratings, 1995-99;

University of Central Oklahoma minority achievement scholarship

Activities: National Forensic League, 1997-99; jazz-show choir, 1997-99; Oklahoma Music Educators All-state Honor Choir, 1997-99; Norman High School musicals, 1997-99; National Association Teachers of Singing;

Plans: to major in vocal performance at UCO



Paula Wesley

Preston Grade School

Parents: Richard and Gena Wesley of Preston

Grandparents: Norma Bible of Preston; Pauline Clark of Holdenville; and Lee Bass Jr. of Cushing

Awards: co-salutatorian; honor roll

Activities: gifted and talented program



Obituaries-religion

GERONIMO ALEXANDER

BROKEN ARROW — Funeral services for Geronimo Alexander were held Feb. 11 at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church with Revs. Bemadine Dowdy, Jerry Walker, and Jim Alexander officiating.

Wake services were held Feb. 10 at Bixby Funeral Home with Revs. Bill Alexander and John Lowe officiating.

He was born Sept. 20, 1907 at Bixby to Willie T. and Nancy Cox Alexander. He died Feb. 8 in Tulsa.

Alexander attended Euchee Mission from 1917 to 1927 and Haskell Institute from 1927 to 1931 where he received vocational training in plumbing.

In 1940 he moved to Albuquerque, N.M. where he was employed at a local Indian school and Kirkland Air Base during World War II. He married Elsie Naharke in 1944. He retired from Sandia National Laboratories in 1970 as a plumber and pipe fitter. In 1987 he moved to Broken Arrow.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and was a member of Masonic Lodge Temple No. 6 in Albuquerque. He was also a Shriner and a member of the Ballut Abyad Shrine Temple. In 1996 the New Mexico Scottish Rite Masons dedicated the Geronimo Alexander Museum and Library at Temple Lodge No. 6 in his honor.

Alexander enjoyed jewelry making. He was a silversmith who produced numerous turquoise and silver bolo ties, rings, concho belts, necklaces, and bracelets. One of his greatest joys was sharing his jewelry with friends and family.

He was a lifelong member of Haikey Chapel and was a board trustee. Alexander was a member of Locapokv Tribal Town and the Bear Clan.

Alexander was preceded in death by: his wife; four brothers; and one sister.

He is survived by: one son, Micco Alexander of St. Louis Park, Minn.; one sister, Josephine Dollie McHenry of Broken Arrow; Jessica Monroe; and many relatives.

Pallbearers were: Steve McHenry; Joe McHenry; Eli McHenry; Jay Hunter; Major McHenry; and Shane Vaughn. Interment was at Bixby Cemetery.

DAVID BARNETT

BAKER, La. — Funeral services for David Osie "Chief" Barnett were held June 3 at First Christian Church with Odus Jackson officiating.

He died May 24 at Lane Memorial Hospital in Zachary, Louisiana. Barnett was born Jan. 4, 1915.

Barnett had been a resident of Baker since 1957. He was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Baker. He was a retired heavy equipment operator and a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 406.



Alexander

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Helen Barnett; son, Louis Barnett; brother, Timothy Barnett; and his parents, Daniel and Addie Frank Barnett.

Barnett is survived by: two sons, David Barnett of Baker and Daniel Barnett of Gonzales, La.; two sisters, Betty Bland of San Diego, Calif. and Josephine Chastain of Wetumka; one brother, George Barnett of Sherman, Texas; and grandchildren, Melissa Fontenot of Baton Rouge, La.; M.L. Peel Jr. of Zachary, La., and Helen Bonnett of Baton Rouge.

Interment was at Wetumka Baptist Church.

JAMES BARNETT

SAPULPA — Funeral services for James Harrison Barnett were held June 11 at Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church with Revs. Jerry Baker and Joe Love Jr. officiating.

Prayer services for the family were held June 9 at Smith Funeral Home.

Barnett was born March 14, 1930 to Wesley and LouAnne Tom Barnett. He died June 8, 1999 at his Sapulpa-area home.

Barnett was a member of Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church and held various church offices during his membership. He retired from Hale Halsell in 1995 because of ill health.

He was preceded in death by: one daughter, Liz; his parents; three brothers; and three sisters.

He is survived by: his wife of 42 years, Maxine; one son, Don Wildcat of Sapulpa; two sisters, Mary J. Watashe of Kellyville and Nancy Jo Harry of Mounds; and many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; and nephews.

Interment was at Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

THOMAS BERRYHILL

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Thomas Paul Berryhill were held at Robert Simons Chapel with Revs. Harry Long and Jay Swallow officiating and traditional leaders Red Hicks, Eunice Hill, and Sam Proctor speaking.

Berryhill died May 6 at his family home in Wilson Community. He was born July 21, 1940 in Tahlequah to Thomas and Blanche Pakoska Berryhill.

He is a member of the Alligator Clan and Kasetv Tribal Town and an adopted member of Apekv Tribal Town.

Berryhill attended Wilson High School and Haskell Institute and graduated from Sequoyah Indian School. He married Janice Tiger on May 25, 1991 at Apekv Ceremonial Grounds. They resided at Liberty Mounds for the majority of their marriage.

He was a self-taught saxophone, guitar, and harmonica player. Berryhill played with various bands and musicians. He was an artist, having worked in the mediums of pastel, pencil, and wood sculpture. His artwork is exhibited in the Australian Supreme Court, various museums, and private collections



Berryhill

throughout the U.S.

He was also an ordained minister who served for 15 years and was associated with United Tribes for Christ and the ministry of Bud Chambers and was an evangelist to tribes in Montana and Arizona.

Berryhill served as an Okmulgee District representative to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for six years. He had served on an advisory council to Amnesty International and was a board member to the Creek Council House Museum. He was often consulted by universities and groups as a speaker and resource on Maskoke history. He was also the spiritual advisor for the Redstick Political Party from 1985 through 1990.

He was preceded in death by: his mother; and aunts, Pauline Pakoska Billy, and Helen Poole.

He is survived by: his father; his wife of the home; children, Mark Berryhill, Aaron Berryhill, and Tonya Jimboy, all of Lawrence, Kan., and Michael Berryhill of Denver, Colo.; one sister, Rita Williams of Wilson Community; three brothers, Michael Berryhill of Henryetta, Perry Berryhill of Broken Arrow, and Elliott Berryhill of Colorado Springs, Colo.; four stepchildren; and eight grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Doug Parker; Danny Potts; Junior Whitlow; Roger Barnett; Barton Williams; and Jerry Tahsequah. Honorary pallbearers were: Ralph Palace; Michael Berryhill; Perry Berryhill; Elliott Berryhill; Earl Kelly; and Butch Powell. Interment was at the Berryhill Family Cemetery.

CURTIS DAVIS

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services for Curtis Charley Davis were held June 2 at the Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ray Tainpeah officiating.

He died on May 29 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Davis was born Dec. 20, 1934 to Wilson and Stella Harjo Davis in Lawton.

Davis attended school at Lawrence, Kan. He married Flora Butler in 1975.

Davis is survived by: his wife of the home; four sons, Anthony and Mickey Davis, both of Seminole, Kelly Davis of Konawa, and Anson Davis of the home; two daughters, Terri Davis Foster of Bowlegs and Sherry Bulter of Sapulpa; one sister, Virginia Tiger of Wetumka; one brother, Jeff Davis of Ada; fourteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Interment was in the Davis Family Cemetery.

CHEBON FRY

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Chebon Jesus Fry were held March 18 at Yardeka Baptist Church with Rev. Bunny Hill officiating.

Chebon was born March 13 in Henryetta to Beatrice Fry. He died March 13 in Henryetta.

He is survived by: his mother; one brother, Emmanuel Fry; grandmother, Bertha Fry; aunts; uncles; and many other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Sam and Sandy Lee.

Interment was at Yardeka cemetery.

JIMMY HILL

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Rev. Jimmy "Bunny" Hill were held June 21 at Yardeka Baptist Church with Revs. Victor Kaneubbe, Amon Harjo, and Cloyd Harjo officiating.

Hill died June 17 at Okemah. He was born April 2, 1950 in Tahlequah to Jess and Medella Colbert Hill. He was raised in Eufaula. After living in various states, he returned to Eufaula and had most recently resided in Henryetta.

Hill was pastor of Yardeka Baptist Church. He was the administrator of Okmulgee Health Center and was formerly the manager of Muscogee Nation Social Services. He served on the Promise Keepers Task Force. He had also served as chairperson of Eufaula Indian Community. He enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, hauling hay, and being with people.

He was preceded in death by: his father; and a sister, Peggy Louise.

He is survived by: his wife, Ella Hill; children, JoMekko Hill and Sandra Sapulpa of the home and Vanessa Hill of Lawrence, Kan.; brother, Belvin Hill of Sparks, Nev.; his mother of Eufaula; five grandchildren; and a host of other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Bo Colbert; Randy Colbert; Jim Schanadore; John Harjo; Felix Frye; Alfred Berryhill; Brent Bruner; and Sonny Harjo. Honorary pallbearers were: Nigel Bigpond; Matt Tiger; Vincent Williams; Rusty Powell; Moses Jumper; Donny McNac; Len Waggoner; Bill Proctor; and William Washburn.

Interment was at Yardeka Cemetery.

SOLOMON McINTOSH

GLENPOOL — Funeral services for Solomon Randolph McIntosh were held June 12 at Liberty Faith Center with Rev. Kyle Taylor officiating.

He was born May 6, 1955 and died June 9, 1999.

Preceding him in death was his brother William James McIntosh.

He is survived by: his parents, William and Leaster McIntosh; brother, Donald McIntosh; and six sisters, Adeline and Vickie McIntosh, both of Sapulpa, Marilyn McIntosh of Tulsa, Shirley Littlehead of Coweta, Patty Tiger of Glenpool, and Sheila Fox of Kellyville; and many other relatives and friends.

Solomon attended Liberty Faith Center.

Interment was at Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church Cemetery.

NACOMA THORTON

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Nacoma DeWayne Thorton were held June 9 at Big Cussetah United Methodist Church with Rev. Andrew Johnson officiating.

Wake services were held June 8 at the church.

He died June 5 in Okmulgee. He was born Dec. 1, 1977.

Thorton graduated from Sand Springs High School in 1996. He continued his education at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee majoring in accounting.

Thorton is survived by: his mother, Ruby Roberts;

his father, Samuel Sandy Roberts Sr.; his son, Darius Thorton; brothers, Jonas Thorton and Samuel Roberts; and many friends and relatives.

Pallbearers were: Kevin Starr; Tony Knuckles; Sanders McLemore; Lyndell Berryhill; Samuel Sandy Roberts Sr.; and Keith Lawrey. Honorary pallbearers were: Samuel Sandy Roberts Jr.; Jonas Thorton; Dennis Mitchell Jr.; and Tooskey Willey.

Interment was at Okmulgee Cemetery.

LESLIE WALKER

WEWOKA — Funeral services were held for Leslie Ann Walker on June 12 at Seminole Baptist Church with Revs. Dorsey Nero and Houston Tiger officiating.

She was born June 4 in Oklahoma City to Terry and Joammie Walker. She died June 10.

Walker was preceded in death by her grandmother, Joan Burgess.

She is survived by: her parents; brother, Wesley Roulston of Shawnee; two sisters, Theda Roulston of Washington D.C. and Tiffany Walker of Konawa; grandparents, Alex Burgess of Spaulding and Christine Gibson of Konawa; nephew, Alex Roulston of Shawnee; uncles, Charles Burgess of Wolf, George Burgess of Coalgate, Dean Walker of Seminole, Sam Harrison and David Walker, both of Shawnee, Claude Ronnie Burgess, both of Seminole, Jonas Burgess of Seminole, Joe Carpitcher of Eufaula, Mark Gibson of Okemah, Toney Gibson of Konawa, and Roman Harjo of Byng; aunts, Gwen Warrenburg of Tecumseh, Marcella Bruner of Tahlequah, Nita Jacobs of Holdenville, Shirley Harrison of Shawnee, Carol Cathy of Bowlegs, Kay Lehman and Gina Burgess, both of Ada, Joammie Harrison of Wewoka, Francis Tanyan and Martha Palmer, both of Seminole, Evelyn Punkta of Shawnee, Joan Story of Konawa, and Cynthia Gibson of Castle.

Interment was at Seminole Baptist Church Cemetery.

Gratitude

We would like to thank everyone that expressed their love and support through prayer, hospital visits, monetary gifts, flowers, food, and telephone calls during the time our loved one was in the hospital as well as afterward.

Special thanks is offered to: Rev. George Doyle; Sand Creek Baptist Church members and their pastors; Rev. Harry Anderson; and Kialegee Tribal town.

We also would like to thank: Williamson Funeral Home; tribal social services; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and tribal roads services.

Mollie Buster Family

We would like to express our appreciation for all the cards, flowers, donations, and prayers offered during the loss of our loved one.

We would like to thank all of our family and friends who visited during our time of sorrow. The food that was offered to our family was appreciated.

We offer special thanks to: Gregg Funeral Home; Little Coweta Baptist Church; Okfuskee Baptist Church; West Eufaula Baptist Church; New Arbor Baptist Church; and Revs. Rick Robertson, Ernest Best, and Kenneth Loma.

Martha Cummings Family.

We would like to express our appreciation for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, expressions of love and prayers offered after the death of our loved one.

We thank all of our family and friends who visited during our time of sorrow. Special thanks is extended to Cedar Creek Baptist Church; Muskogee Indian Community; tribal social services; and Bradley Funeral Home.

Rina Urquhart Family**Religion****Buck Family to hold benefit gospel singing**

OKMULGEE — The Buck Family is holding a benefit gospel singing for Loretta Denny at 7 p.m., July 31.

The singing will be held at the Claude Cox Omniplex, located just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

Supper will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and may be purchased for \$4. Those attending are advised to bring lawn chairs.

For more information, call (918) 756-8116 or (918) 758-1410.

Memorial services to be held for Kinneys

WEWOKA — Memorial services will be held for Wilson And Jennie Chupco Kinney on July 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Wewoka Baptist Church.

The speaker will be Mike McConnell. The church is located at 608 S. Wewoka.

Buckeye Baptist holding gospel singing

OKEMAH — The Buckeye Baptist Church will hold a gospel singing on August 7 at 7:30 p.m. Concession will be available.

The featured group will be the Buck Family. The church is located seven miles north of Interstate 40 on state highway 48 and two miles east of I.X.L.

Tiger

continued from page 4

no matter what the ailment be. She cautions that Native Americans could potentially propel themselves into extinction through neglect. "We lost a huge population since the first encounter 500 years ago and have been reduced to a population of about two million today. We've been reduced to such a small minority today that nobody pays attention to us and if we don't pay attention to ourselves and our health — with our diabetes and our heart disease and everything else that affects us — then we won't be a problem to anybody anymore because we won't exist."

Some may argue that she doesn't deserve special recognition — that there are other Muscogee citizens who may have shared a more worthwhile message, but Lisa is one of few American Indians who will willingly speak from experience. She has experienced the worst and made the best of life's circumstances, proving that HIV positive individuals can adapt and live successfully.

Throughout this century, and the centuries before it, Native Americans have had to adapt to new ways, languages, laws, lands, and a new world. Even when what seems like a new disease comes along, the American Indian is still adapting — adapting to survive — and one Muscogee (Creek) Citizen is making sure of that.

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	9	0	0	0	0
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	2,230	73,239	0	1,738	71,501
TREASURY	243,470	217,797	29,596	111,746	76,455
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	3,108	65,046	0	344	64,702
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	470,865	1,085,324	20,602	522,568	542,154
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	488,304	1,604,541	11,034	1,033,338	560,169
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	854,271	2,109,454	4,601	1,006,750	1,098,103
CONSUMER LOANS	8,894	0	0	(67,729)	67,729
CREEK NATION BINGO	1,379,002	1,450,189	3,642	659,142	787,405
CN PERMANENT FUND	1,090,131	256,012	0	98,995	157,017
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	943,085	0	0	18,686	(18,686)
BEAR STEARNS PERM FUND	228,869	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	446	2,000	0	914	1,086
HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY	13,290	10,890	0	8,657	2,233
TRIBAL BUDGET	569,838	1,141,124	1,033	500,863	639,228
MOTOR VEHICLE	553,952	211,304	230	135,445	75,629
JTPA TITLE IV-A 98	324,715	546,801	416	348,924	197,461
WELFARE TO WORK	49,934	540,942	3,971	52,377	484,594
CCDBG 96	235,773	445,815	100	235,773	209,942
CCDBG 97	607,573	714,776	18,701	642,907	53,168
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	11,309	11,309	0	11,309	0
LIHEAP 98	400	10,520	0	400	10,120
FAMILY PRES 98	78,025	165,667	957	83,711	80,999
CCDBG 98 MANDATORY FUNDS	1,005,045	1,915,137	7,640	1,072,863	834,634
CCDBG 98 CONSTRUCTION	3,000	735,030	1,750	3,000	730,280
HEADSTART '98	453,072	650,421	0	453,072	197,349
TITLE IV-B 98	83,599.00	133,444.00	377.00	104,000.00	29,067
FAMILY VIOLENCE 98	73,618	191,197	2,331	83,317	105,549
LIHEAP 99	43,941	77,270	0	44,228	33,042
CCBG 99 MANDATORY FUNDS	25,198	1,825,625	4,737	26,974	1,793,914
FAMILY PRESERVATION 99	0	177,008	0	0	177,008
HEADSTART 99	356,411	1,397,176	21,716	399,537	975,923
TITLE IV-B 99	0	231,739	0	6,764	224,975
FOOD DISTRIBUTION 99	170,038	384,276	532	186,434	197,310
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	4,000	4,000	260	2,680	1,060
LIBRARY SERVICE TECH	2,000	2,000	0	0	2,000
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	23	0	0	0	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	50,315	28,300	113	2,849	25,338
HEADSTART USDA REIMBUR	62,884	52,635	11,400	27,375	13,860
ELECTION BOARD	21	0	0	0	0
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	3,035	5,400	0	3,867	1,533
REVOLVING FUND	119	0	0	0	0
LIGHTHORSE PROGRAM INCOME	4,156	3,750	0	110	3,640
SELF-GOVERNANCE INTEREST	299,800	0	0	0	0
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	5,403,276	4,514,653	15,098	2,768,925	1,730,630
D. OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	(2,872)	0	0	0	0
EUFAULA DORMITORY	844	0	0	831	(831)
DIVISION OF T. AFFAIRS	108,207	2,551,712	2,304	114,414	2,434,994
KELLEYVILLE BRIDGE	128,876	138,380	0	128,876	9,504
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,070	1,060	0	1,060	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	21	0	0	0	0
EUFAULA DORMITORY 97	411,502	404,574	1,000	167,458	236,116
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	594	588	0	588	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	61,403	59,110	0	39,518	19,592
EUFAULA DORMITORY 98	2,612,509	2,582,188	31,902	491,478	2,058,808
TRANSPORTATION IMPR. 98	21,972	49,494	53	24,130	25,311
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 99	14,174	14,150	0	5,062	9,088
JOHNSON O'MALLEY 99	980,448	969,824	565	197,781	771,478
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	0	60,000	0	0	60,000
WETUMKA PROJECT	0	90,000	0	26,428	63,572
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	30,238	73,543	103	28,428	45,012
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM	41,770	96,164	1,747	49,853	44,564
DRUG COURT	3,755	179,967	0	3,838	176,129
EPA	0	75,000	0	0	75,000
COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT	(58,380)	286,513	0	217,631	68,882
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	317,421	0	0	57,355	(57,355)
TRIBAL AGRIC PROGRAM	236	14,287	600	7,665	6,022
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	212,350	483,311	0	223,794	259,517
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	14,818	0	0	0	0
COMMUNICATION REVLING FUND	1,321	1,317	0	796	521
MCN FLAGS & ETC.	617	0	0	0	0
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	28,640	176,482	141,301	8,869	26,312
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	66,010	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENT TRUST	(147,320)	0	0	0	0
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	18,134	0	0	(103,061)	103,601
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST	29	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL-REAL PROP & FACILITIES	665,440	874,067	4,598	444,456	425,013
TRIBAL-PROPERTY & SUPPLY	69,129	161,431	0	74,913	86,518
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	132,210	133,855	1,000	2,936	129,919
CN FOUND SCHOLARSHIP FUND	1,669	0	0	1,200	(1,200)
COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT	(58,380)	286,513	0	217,631	68,882
EUFAULA DORM-ACTIVITY FUND	3,062	0	0	0	0
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL	10,059	0	0	0	0
INDIAN HOME PROGRAM	8,605	447,439	0	8,605	438,834
NAHASDA 98	1,379,808	16,359,529	0	1,379,808	14,979,721
NO DESCRIPTION	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	23,339,413	49,275,796	346,010	14,197,563	34,732,223

Quarterly treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Mar. 31, 1999 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the second quarter of fiscal year 1999. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending March 31, 1999.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved as of March 31, 1999 in the annual comprehensive budget or as adjusted by ordinance.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **unencumbered** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of March 31, 1999.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700.

These figures are not audited.



The Muscogee Nation News

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August 1999, 16 pages

Seven file for office of Muscogee principal chief

OKMULGEE — Seven tribal citizens, including incumbent R. Perry Beaver, have filed for the office of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief.

The other candidates include: George Almerigi of Okmulgee, who currently holds the office of second chief; Roger D. Barnett of Bristow, a Creek District representative to the National Council; Kenneth L. Childers of

Tribal Election Dates
Primary election — Sept. 18
General election — Dec. 4

Glenpool, Speaker and Tulsa District representative to the National Council; Graydon Flud of Jenks, owner of Flud Farms; Joseph Tommy Rogers of Sand Springs, an employee of Creek Nation Housing Authority; and Thomas Yahola of Wetumka, a Tukvptce District representative to the National Council.

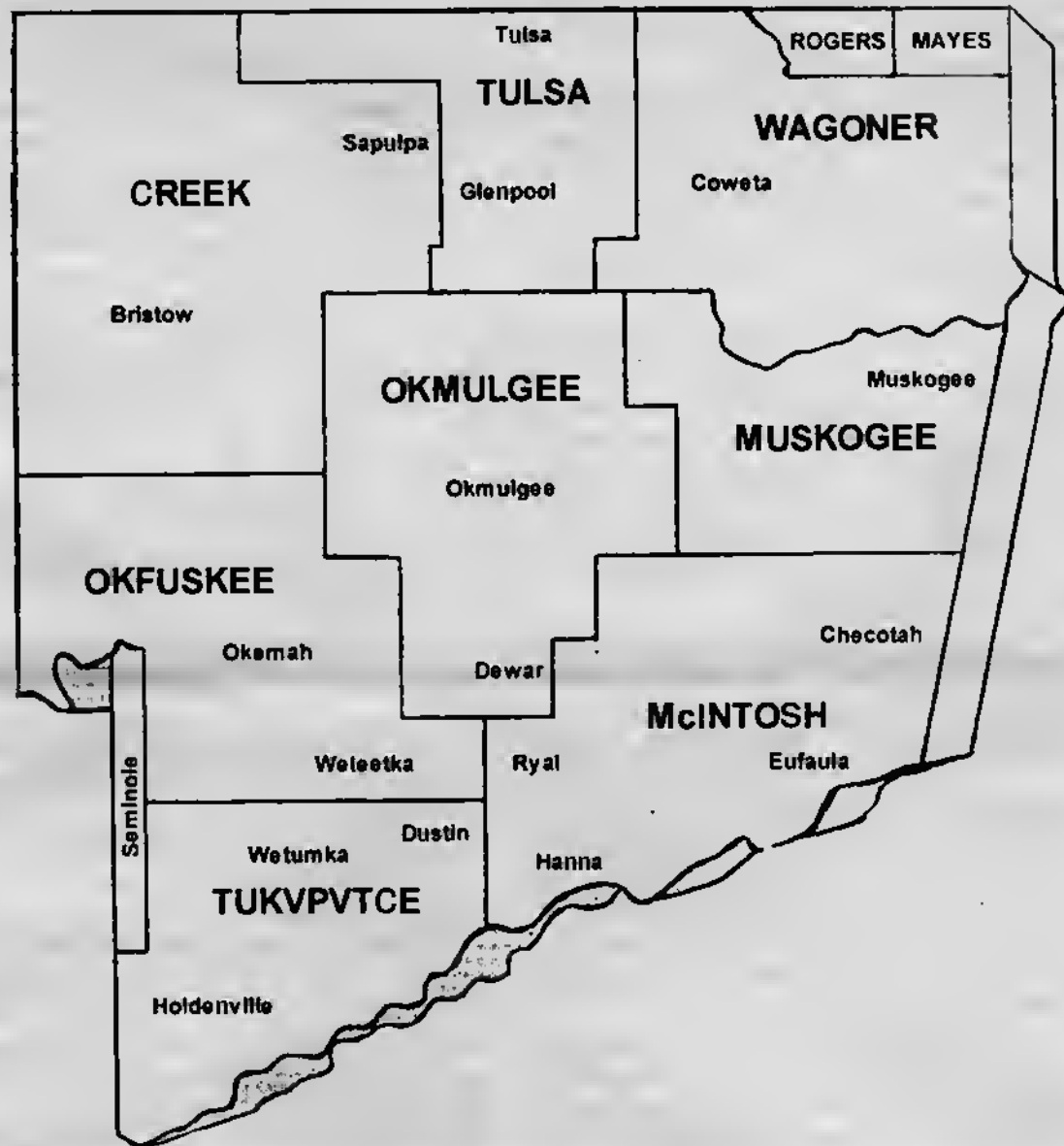
Six candidates are seeking the office of second chief. Running for that office are: Perry Anderson of Eufaula, tribal personnel director; Wilson Bear of Checotah, a former representative to the National Council; A.D. Ellis of Twin Hills, Okmulgee District representative to the National Council; Edwin Marshall of Wetumka, tribal community services director; George Tiger of Sapulpa, Creek District representative to the National Council; and A. Dean Williams of Okmulgee, tribal facilities employee.

See election section
beginning on
page four

Forty-four tribal citizens have filed for 26 National Council seats. Twelve races were unopposed. Races without

contest are:

- **Creek** — *Seat A:* Sheridan Pickering and *Seat B:* Duke Harjo;
- **McIntosh** — *Seat B:* Wilbur Gouge, incumbent and *Seat C:* Thomas McIntosh, incumbent;
- **Muskogee** — *Seat A:* Helen Chupco, incumbent and *Seat B:* Harley Gene Little, incumbent;
- **Okmulgee** — *Seat A:* David Lewis, incumbent;
- **Tukvptce** — *Seat A:* Dwayne Lowe, incumbent;
- **Tulsa** — *Seat A:* Larry S. Bible, incumbent; *Seat C:* Earl W. King, incumbent; and *Seat E:* Jesse F. Kelley, incumbent; and
- **Wagoner** — *Seat A:* Richard Berryhill, incumbent



Muscogee (Creek) Nation voting precincts

Creek District

Bristow Indian Community Center: 121 W. Lincoln
Sapulpa Indian Community Center: 1020 N. Brown

McIntosh District

Checotah Indian Community Center: 998 Maple
Eufaula Indian Community Center: 800 Forest Ave.
Hanna Indian Community Center: two and three-fourths miles east of Hanna
Ryal School: seven miles southeast of Henryetta

Muskogee District

Muskogee Indian Community Center: 111 S. Virginia

Okfuskee District

Okemah Indian Community Center: two blocks south of Interstate 40 on state highway 27
Weteetka Indian Community Center: 602 S. Chickasaw

Okmulgee District

Dewar Indian Community Center: 212 Luella St.
Okmulgee Indian Community Center: three blocks east of U.S. Highway 75 on loop 56

Tulsa District

Glenpool Indian Community Center: 13839 S. Casper
Tulsa Indian Community Center: 861 I. S. Union

Tukvptce District

Dustin Indian Community: corner of Sparks and Broadway streets
Holdenville Indian Community: 224 E. Poplar
Wetumka Indian Community: 608 N. Creek

Wagoner District

Koweta Indian Community: one-fourth of a mile north of state

Case reinforces Council's role as coordinate branch of government

by Gerald Wofford

At one time, Native Americans were totally in control of North America — free to roam the land and enjoy its benefits. They were free from the outside influences of the Europeans, but not free from the law.

The aboriginal people of this country have always had a high regard for traditional law. Tribal law would range from tribe to tribe, clan to clan. Even laws pertaining to personal hygiene were created — all to keep a harmonious balance within the tribe and one's self.

The Iroquois League served as a forum for Indian Nations to come together and create laws. So advanced and sophisticated was their charter that the early U.S. Constitution was influenced by it.

Another alliance was the Creek Confederacy in the southeastern U.S. This confederacy was a strong and a dominating force in that area during the 1700 and 1800s. Internal strife eventually led to its downfall at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Yet, even after the removal and settlement in Indian Territory, the title 'Creek' still remains.

The new settlement did not diminish tribal law and organization, though. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, like the other southeastern tribes that were also removed from their homelands, earnestly reinvented themselves in a strange land — rebuilding their tribal towns' social, religious, and political structures. They even created a Constitution in 1867. Indian Territory may have been known as a 'robber's haven' to the white man, but local tribal law was strictly enforced.

A good example of this can be found in Muscogee history near the beginning of this century. A tribal policeman or Lighthorseman by the name of Timmie Jack shot and killed a fellow citizen on New Year's Eve of 1896. Timmie Jack willingly confessed to the murder of this man. He was convicted in tribal court. Tribal law called for the death penalty in any murder case. Timmie Jack was given a few months to get his personal matters in order before facing execution. He did just that and, on the specified date, returned to the tribal courthouse to face his sentence. Tribal law was respected and fulfilled.

As colonists invaded North America, so did their laws and treaties. The hunger for more land and a desire to contain the Indian led to forced removals and reservation restriction which, in turn, led to the passing of new laws by the government by simply breaking established law or treaty and enforcing its desires.

Often would be the case when dealing with Indian tribes over land issues or other matters such as mineral rights. A governmental official would simply find a tribal member — one who did not have authority in tribal matters — and coerce him into sign a legal document. This document would often mean an Indian losing his allotted land, land rights, or even an entire tribe being forced to move. William McIntosh signed a treaty that made provisions for giving up ancestral lands and removal to the west. To a government covetous of the land, McIntosh's signature was as good as all of the tribal town leaders combined. This was not the case; tribal law required approval from all leaders, including a council.

This, in a nutshell, has been where the government has been confused in dealing with Indian matters — often looking to just one official, or for that matter, just

any Indian who happens to a member of a tribe or family. The U.S. government not dealing with official tribal government entities has been a major reason why tribal sovereignty was born.

Many Indian tribes, specifically the Muscogee Nation, were given the legal right to form their own governments with the principal chief not solely making important decisions, but other branches as well. The Muscogees included two additional governing bodies — the House of Warriors and the House of Kings. If anyone was to deal with the leadership of the tribe, it would have to be with the official governing bodies.

In this century, Indian laws and treaties are stronger and enforced more than they were in the preceding century and are being held up in the very place created by the U.S. government — the U.S. court system.

Most tribes have not received due process. Many continue to plead their cases and remind the U.S. government of their legal obligations to past treaties. Though as each case is heard, it seems as though the government attempts to find a legal 'loop-hole' or means to repress tribal governments. A good example of this is when state entities fight Indian gaming operations, only to realize they are not dealing with a group or company, but a sovereign Nation.

If it was up to the U.S. government or state officials, it is likely they would wish to settle matters as was done in the days of old.

The Muscogee Constitution of 1867 established three governing bodies — the principal chief; the House of Warriors; and the House of Kings; it became a legal form dictating how the tribe would conduct its business.

Although this Constitution was created in the preceding century, it is in this century that it has had a profound effect — not just on the Muscogee, but Indian tribes in general.

So we look not at a special Muscogee Citizen of the Century this month, but rather a special event in contemporary Muscogee history.

Although the Muscogee Constitution was binding, U.S. government officials still attempted to deal in tribal matters through one governing body or leader — the principal chief. "The Federal Government was making a mistake by recognizing the Principal Chief of the Creek Nation as the sole embodiment and not paying any attention to the Creek National Council which was a branch of the government," said Patrick Moore, Muscogee Nation District Court Judge.

On September 2, 1976 Allen Harjo, along with other members of the Muscogee Nation, brought action for declaratory and injunctive relief against policy and practice of the Interior Department in recognizing and dealing with the principal chief of the Muscogee Nation as the sole embodiment of the tribal government and in refusing to recognize, facilitate, or deal with the Muscogee Nation Council as a coordinate branch of the tribal government responsible for certain legislative and financial functions.

Judge Moore added, "this lawsuit was prosecuted in the United States District Court in the District of Columbia. Their were numerous procedural things that the [U.S.] lawyers attempted to do to get the case thrown out — from a jurisdictional standpoint, a political question standpoint, other things of that nature which the Judge [J. Bryant] addressed in his long opinion. The

nuts and bolts of the lawsuit involve whether or not the treaties of the Creek Nation and the old Constitution of the Creek Nation had been completely obliterated by the United States Congress. He [Bryant] felt that their was never any clear and explicit determination by the Congress that they intended to abolish the Creek Nation's Constitutional Government." So the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was upheld and honored.

As the years passed other changes would happen to the Muscogee Constitution concerning the governing body such as: a National Council as opposed to a House of Warriors and a House of Kings; an official tribal court; and district court judges.

Had the U.S. Government won in Federal Court during that historic time, the Muscogee Nation and other tribal governments could very well have been similar to a dictatorship — with only one voice representing an entire nation.

"It's probably the most important case for the Creek Nation in recent times," said Judge Moore. This case would also influence the federal government in how it would deal with all Indian Tribes. Not being hasty in settling a 'deal' with one tribal official, but rather, respecting a full, operating, and functional tribal government and dealing with the entities therein.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Programs-notices

Office of child care assistance program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care operates the child care and development fund program, formerly the child care development block grant, which assists eligible families with their obligation for child care.

To participate in the program, both parents must either be working, training, or enrolled in an education program. Assistance is available for Muscogee citizens living within the state of Oklahoma and American Indians who meet income guidelines and reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Muscogee Nation.

To apply for assistance, the parent[s] must:

- complete an application for each child
- provide a copy of parent[s] pay stub for one full month from the previous month or students should submit copy of a current class schedule listing the hours and days of attendance with a financial aid award letter;
- submit copies of proof of residency
- submit the child's certificate degree of Indian blood, tribal citizenship, Social Security and immunization cards.

For more information on child care assistance or to request an application, call (918) 758-1463 or 1 (800) 205-3705.

Muscogee seniors holding onion dinner

MUSKOGEE — Muscogee Indian Community's Senior Action Group is holding its fall wild onion dinner beginning at 11:30 a.m., Sept. 25.

The cost of the dinner is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages eight and under. Dinners include a drink and a dessert.

The community center is located at 111 S. Virginia St.

Haskell alumni annual reunion to be held

WAGONER — The Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma is holding its annual reunion on Sept. 10 through 12 at the Western Hills Lodge in the Sequoyah State Park.

The following activities will be on the agenda:

- Sept. 10 — cookout;
- Sept. 11 — golf scramble, bingo, horseshoe pitching, and dinner-dance;
- Sept. 12 — Sunday morning singing by alumni, Buck Quartet and Osceola Trio.

To reserve a room, call 1(800) 654-8240 and ask for the Haskell rate. For more information, call: Joyce Childers Bear at (918) 756-8700, ext. 602; e-mail, Cultural@ocevnet.org; or call Flo Spotted Bear at (918) 342-6403.

Annual Indian land symposium to be held

POISON, Mont. — The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are hosting the Eighth Annual Indian Land Consolidation Symposium at the Salish-Kootenai Tribes' KwaTaqNuk Resort on Oct. 26 through Oct. 29.

Topics on the agenda are: Indian land working group legislation; estate planning; developing a land database; filing a petition to reopen a probate case; organizing a land owners association; and fee-to-trust trans-

Napier selected as July employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Malissa D. Perryman Napier, office of principal chief secretary, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's July employee of the month.

Napier's duties consists of: answering phones; filing; directing calls and visitors to the proper office; generating documents on the computer; taking meeting minutes; and maintaining incoming and out going office correspondence.

She attended Seneca Indian School and Sequoyah High School. Napier has completed 40 hours of business administration courses at Bacone College and Connors State College.

She has four children and six grandchildren. She enjoys baking, needlepoint, spending time with her grandchildren, and keeping abreast of current scientific developments in space programs.



photo by Gerald Wofford

She has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for seven years.

actions.

Rosalie Grothaus, founder of the Oklahoma Indian Land and Mineral Associated Nations, will be among concerned Native Americans learning and networking at the symposium.

Grothaus said "this will be a chance to learn what is being done by other organizations and by tribal governments to deal with important Native American land ownership and use issues. We can hear what has and has not worked and adopt the most successful ideas that are appropriate for O.I.L.M.A.N. and its members."

Habitat seeks hard-workers for homes

OKLAHOMA CITY — Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity is part of a worldwide, nonprofit, nondenominational, Christian housing ministry which provides zero-interest mortgage loans to qualified, hard-working low-income families.

Habitat for Humanity accepts little government funding. Income is earned from sales of articles donated to the Habitat Pick-up Service and from sales at the Habitat Renovation Station which specializes in new, used, and vintage building materials.

Donations from private individuals, companies, churches, foundations, and civic groups are pooled and used to construct solid, insulated, well-laid out homes which are then sold to qualified families for the cost of construction. Volunteers contributing their labor help to keep the cost of the house down. A brand new four-bedroom, two-bath home is currently

selling for \$44,000. Monthly house payments are assessed at 20 percent of the homeowner's gross monthly income, including taxes and insurance, and are paid directly to Habitat for Humanity.

Applicants must have a demonstrable need for the program, have a stable annual household income between \$14,000 and \$25,000 per year, and be the head of household. Applicants are required to contribute 300 hours to Habitat for Humanity as the down payment on the new home, and must be willing to live where Habitat for Humanity is building homes. Credit is reviewed and does not have to be perfect, but will be taken into consideration.

Central Oklahoma Habitat will build 30 homes in 1999 in neighborhoods located in southeast and southwest Oklahoma City and in Midwest City. It is one of 15 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the state of Oklahoma.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity's home ownership program call, (405) 524-7151.

Vital records office to stay open late

OKLAHOMA CITY — The vital records office at the Oklahoma State Health Department will be open Thursday evenings until Sept. 15.

The office is in the Oklahoma State Department of Health, located at 1000 N.E. 10th St.

To obtain a birth certificate, applicants must provide a date of birth, parents names, and photo identification. There is a \$5 search fee for each certified copy of a birth certificate.

Okmulgee County Women's Health Forum to hold conference

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee County Women's Health Forum is holding its 1999 conference at Henryetta Civic Center on Sept. 23 and Green Country Vo-Tech, Okmulgee, on Sept. 24.

Civic groups, churches, and organizations that are interested in participating are encouraged to contact co-chairs Brenda Miller and Carolyn Torix at 756-1958 and 756-4333, ext. 230, respectively.

Committee members, pictured left to right, front row: Clara Yuponco; Cindy Hoover; Clemma Luellen; Kelly Ogg; and Janet Bear; back row — Carolyn McCoy; Rita Williams; Brenda Miller; Carolyn Torix; Sue Henson; Hazel Morris; and Joanna Austin.



photo submitted

Muscogee Nation Election 99



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a division of Ink Impressions, Rio Rancho, N.M.

Editor's note: The following candidate profiles are published as they were submitted and have been edited only for spelling and capitalization. Candidates were given the following space limitations: principal chief, 500 words; second chief, 300 words; and National Council representative, 150 words. A large amount of space was allocated to candidates in the races for principal chief and second chief to insure that they received enough space for their maximum word limit. Because additional space was available, text exceeding the word limit was published to fill the text blocks.

Principal Chief candidates

Name: George B. Almerigi

Age: 65

Residence: Okmulgee

Family: Wife, Shirley A. (McCosar) Almerigi

Parents: the late Pauline Lowe

Grandparents: John Lowe and Lisa Pakoska

Clan: Alligator

Church: Belvin Baptist church

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:

Cussetah



Experience: second chief, Muscogee Nation, from January 1996 to present; assistant attorney general from September 1992 to December 1995; National Council member from January 1988 to September 1992; tribal attorney for the Muscogee Nation from June 1984 to September 1986.

Almerigi is experienced and knowledgeable in Indian law and sovereignty issues; he was tribal attorney when Creek Nation won its lawsuit against the State of Oklahoma in 1985 to protect the Nation's right to regulate bingo games in Indian Country.

At the federal level, Almerigi represents the Five Tribes of the Muscogee Area Office of the BIA on the Negotiated Rule Making Committee of the Indian Reservation Roads program, and he is assisting in the search for a new area director for the Oklahoma City area of the Indian Health Service.

Almerigi is an attorney who has been in private law practice; he has experience as an accountant, computer programmer and has been a manager of management information systems. Also, he has raised cattle for many years.

Juris Doctor degree from Oklahoma City University, Law School. B.S. degree in business administration, Long Beach State College.

Almerigi retired from the U.S. Navy reserve in 1994 as chief petty officer. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War and in the Navy during Operation Desert Storm.

Past-President of Okmulgee Lions Club, Past-Master of Okmulgee Masonic Lodge, member of Okmulgee County Family Resources Board and the Creek Indian Museum Association.

Reason for seeking office: I am seeking office because I feel I am the best qualified candidate for the office of principal chief. We can grow and progress only with the best qualified leadership available.

My mission is to provide vision and leadership for the Creek Nation to become more independent and self-sufficient; to promote unity among the citizens; to promote pride and hope in our people. To restore our Nation to its rightful place as a leader among Indian Nations.

My vision is that all our citizens will become a self-sufficient and successful people. There will be a rapid growth in industry and business which will generate tribal income and jobs, 100% of our students will complete high school and go on to complete at least a two year degree program or a vocational training program. The drug and alcohol problem among our people will become a rare thing. Creek parents and grandparents will live happy, healthy and productive lives in their retirement years. There will be a transportation system within the Creek Nation. Creek chartered communities will become successful centers for promoting creative activities, the tribal government center will be filled with productive, energetic, and proud people who are dedicated to service to our citizens.

Name: Roger D. Barnett

Age: 38

Residence: Bristow

Family: spouse, Stephanie Berryhill Barnett and son, Eco Tasahce

Parents: Rachel Wilson Barnett and Joseph Barnett, both of Bristow

Grandparents: Nicey Tecumseh Wilson and the late Solomon Wilson of the Kvnate area and the late Jim and Lizzie Starr Barnett, Bristow

Clan: Wind

Church: Concharly United Methodist

Tribal Town: Kvnate (Concharly)

Experience: I have over seven years of experience in the tribal government system as a former employee and have worked in programs under the leadership of three tribal administrations. Offices in which I was employed are: higher education; employment and training administration; and the judicial branch. I am completing my first term as a Creek District National Council representative. As a representative I currently serve on the National Council Business and Government Committee and am the chair of the fact finding committee. I have an associate's degree in applied science and, after one semester, will complete a bachelor's degree in industrial management and environmental studies. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army also.

Reason for seeking office: If elected to office, I have a four-year plan that will fortify the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with the longevity to sustain itself for the new millennium. I envision Muscogee tribal government in which the following elements are crucial:

- cultural preservation — as confederated Muscogee people we are responsible for culture-bearing, which means funding and establishing language curriculum and traditional arts programs within tribal Head Start, child care, and community centers;

- elders — our grandmothers and grandfathers are our most valuable tribal resource; they are the treasurers of our intellectual and cultural inheritance — as principal chief I want to protect this inheritance by establishing a centrally-located elders' center where they may be transported from their homes daily to fellowship, receive health screenings and meals, and play a major role in tribal language curriculum and traditional arts classes;

- health — under my administration I will strive to improve and increase health services on a continual basis — too often our tribal citizens are denied contract health funding or are stalled in the bureaucratic process of trying to access direly needed medical services that the tribal health system cannot provide;

- tribal land base — in order to pursue economic development opportunities and before Muscogee and Euchee families can begin enjoying the benefits of home ownership, the Nation must continually seek out optimum lands for development;

- economic development — information technology, the Information Superhighway has offered the world community an entirely new venue for revenue making. Our tribal government status lends us a competitive edge over mainstream cyber stores and as principal chief I will capitalize on our status through this new business venue called electronic commerce; and

- education — I would like to provide Muscogee and Euchee people the opportunity to pursue advanced level degrees through a scholarship program that would benefit both students and the Nation. In exchange for tuition funds, this program would obligate them to give back to the tribe through a two-year contract for employment with the Nation.

As a candidate for the office of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief, I offer you experience in the legislative and judicial branches, as well as a solid background of camaraderie with Council members and tribal employees. As a tribal member that grew up using — and continues to use — tribal and federal programs and services, as a former employee of the Nation, and as a National Council representative, I am experienced in tribal governmental operations — I realize its potential as well as the frustration that many citizens experience with tribal bureaucracy.

My main objective is less bureaucracy and administrative spending so that more funding can be utilized for direct services to tribal citizens. I believe that I have served the citizens of the Creek District — as well as other tribal citizens that called upon me — to the best of my ability. Ask my constituents about my performance; I am confident in encouraging you to inquire about my voting and attendance records as a National Council member as well. I would like you and your family to consider me for the office of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief. I appreciate your consideration and will act in the best interests of the Muscogee Nation and its citizens.



Name: R. Perry Beaver

Age: 60

Residence: Jenks

Family: spouse, Mariam and four children, Brant Robb, Brent Bert, Robin Leann, and Del Vince

Parents: the late John and Della Fox Beaver

Grandparents: G.P. Halley and Miley Alexander Beaver

Clan: Deer

Church: Big Cussetah Methodist

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground: Weogufkee



Experience: I have served the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation for the last four years as principal chief — a time, I feel, of real growth and progress, economically and in providing services to Creek people. This is the experience that I bring to my bid for reelection as principal chief. Although a great deal has been accomplished during my administration, I feel that so much more can be done and I would like to have this opportunity to accomplish the tasks and priorities that I set forth during the first year of my term.

In addition to my experience as serving as your principal chief, I gained valuable experience as second chief of the tribe in the 1980s and as National Council Representative from the Tulsa District in two separate terms. While on the National Council during my last term, I served as chairman of the business and government committee.

As my experience indicates, I have served in almost every capacity with the Muscogee Nation and the experience that I have gained with the executive and legislative branches of tribal government has served me well as principal chief and in turn, has benefitted the tribe and tribal citizens.

While principal chief, I have had the rare distinction of being appointed by the Assistant Secretary of the Indian Affairs, to several key national Indian committees and boards — the Tribal Priority Allocation Work Group; the Department of Interior Self-Governance Committee and I was elected as chairman of the American Indian Leaders Committee of the Democratic National Committee — the first such group of its kind. These honored appointments have given me an insight into National Indian issues and has, I believe, brought issues relating to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation into the national political arena and has strengthened our stance in the continuing battle for our sovereignty. I have also served as chairman of the Five Civilized Intertribal Council during my term of office and this has again, brought positive national and state attention to the tribe.

My career as head football coach at Jenks Public School system (twenty five years before retirement); as an Indian educator and my academic credentials (a masters degree in education) have also enhanced my background in understanding the priority of educating the new generation of Creek youth who will one day, be the future leaders of the tribe.

Last of all, but probably more important than any other experience I have listed, I am a father, husband and member of a large family. Learning to be a "team player" in a family is in itself — an experience — but one with a major reward — the love and support of the family. Nothing in my life could have prepared me for this great undertaking as principal chief like being a parent. I am grateful for the support of my wife, children, family and church family (I am a lifetime member of Big Cussetah Church) and I pledge to them and to each citizen that I will do the best job that I can as chief of this mighty Nation.

Reason for seeking office: When I ran for the office of principal chief four years ago, my slogan was "Bringing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation into the 21st century." Today, my platform of priorities is still the same and although much has been accomplished in the areas of improved health care for tribal citizens; greater economic development opportunities for the tribe such as the success of the Okmulgee Travel Plaza, the motor fuels agreement and tribal tags which has brought much needed revenue into tribal coffers and from there — into services for tribal citizens; greater educational opportunities through putting additional monies into educational scholarships for tribal citizens; an increase in tribal investments; ongoing preservation of tribal culture and heritage; and overall protection of tribal sovereignty on the national front — I still desire to serve another term as principal chief to positively impact these areas and move the tribe into a greater arena of progress and prosperity.

If elected to another term as principal chief and with your help, I will lead the Muscogee Nation into the new millennium in an aggressive and positive manner — together we can meet the challenges of the new century!

Name: Kenneth L. Childers**Age:** 59**Residence:** Glenpool**Family:** 4 children and 8 grandchildren**Parents:** Mose Childers and Violet Williams

Childers Freeman

Grandparents: Alice Burgess; Ben Childers and Annie Gibson**Clan:** Sweet Potato**Church:** Protestant**Tribal Town:** Locvpokv**Experience:** 6 terms National Council; 5 term speaker; 1 term 2nd speaker; 1 term chairman, Creek Housing Authority; 1 term cochair Creek Nation gaming board; 24 years Indian counselor-coordinator, Coweta schools.**Reason for seeking office:** Greatly increase efforts in the area of economic development in order to provide jobs by Creeks for Creeks. Strive for greater tribal self-sufficiency and independence from the federal government. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of services to the citizens in order to get the most out of shrinking federal monies. Maintain and strengthen the management system to ensure that all programs benefit as many citizens as possible. Emphasize education and job training so that tribal members can become more competitive in the job market.

I have always believed in equality of treatment and the opportunity for betterment as an inalienable right of all Muscogee (Creek) citizens. In order to preserve that right from erosion by the federal and state government, our greatest defense is unity as a people. I offer strong, positive, and experienced leadership that will bring just such unity to our government and our people at this critical time in our history.

**Name:** Graydon "Rusty" Flud**Age:** 58**Residence:** Jenks**Family:** spouse, Janice; son, Roger; daughter, Anita; 5 grandchildren**Parents:** Nora and Graydon Flud**Grandparents:** Lula and Jackson Cobert**Clan:** Bear**Church:** First Baptist, Glenpool**Tribal Town:** Tuskegee**Experience:** Member of the Muscogee Creek Nation; supervisor with Gulf Oil Corporation; management with Affiliated Foods; successful businessman and owner of Flud Farms serving the southcentral and southwest U.S.; husband, father, and grandfather; and served on Glenpool school board.**Reason for seeking office:** I believe in the goodness of our people and our Nation. But I also believe that our Nation needs strong, moral, and experienced leadership. As a husband, father, grandfather and successful business owner I know I am prepared to provide that leadership.

As a successful businessman, I have the leadership skills, training and practical wisdom to manage our God given resources in such a way that all members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation can share in our prosperity. The resources that we have belong, not to a select few, but to the entire tribe. We who are chosen to lead have a moral and ethical responsibility to live up to that trust. I can and will do that.



Name: Joseph Tommy Rogers

Age: 45

Residence: Sand Springs

Family: two daughters, Courtney, 7, and Cheyenne Rogers, 2

Parents: the late Joe and Aileen Rogers

Grandparents: the late Robert and Fenev Rogers and Ann and Bob Rogers

Clan: Turtle

Church: Little Cussetah

Experience: Education major bachelor's degree in education. I now work for Housing Authority of Creek Nation.

Reason for seeking office: To bring unity and trust back within Creek Nation. To help and guide our Creek people into the millennium. For more jobs, better education, better housing, and better medical.



Name: Thomas Yahola

Age: 60

Residence: Wetumka

Family: spouse, Phyllis (Sloan) Yahola; children, Thomasene, Asi, Leah, Lenora, Angie, Melinda, Opothle, and Beth

Parents: the late Lyman Yahola and Bertha (Taylor) Yahola.

Clan: Deer

Church: Montesoma Baptist

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town; Tahlahvse Ceremonial Ground, Cromwell



Experience: Three terms as National Council Representative; former speaker and second speaker of the National Council; commander, Este Cate Veterans, Wetumka; acting chief, Tahlahvse Ceremonial Ground, Cromwell; currently serve on the Trail of Tears National Historical Advisory Council appointed by the Secretary of Interior; U.S. Army Veteran; and have a bachelor of science degree in business administration from NSU, Tahlequah. I am active in participating with local schools by speaking to grade school and high school students about our culture and language.

Reason for Seeking Office: To ensure that the future needs of our tribal citizens are met whether through federal programs administered by the tribe or new economic enterprises designed to bring employment to our people.

We are a unique people living in an ever changing society; therefore, we must work together as families, employees and leaders to face the challenges ahead and together find solutions that will have a positive impact on our children and elders. I want to see that our children are educated so they can be competitive and productive, and I want to find ways to help our elders so they can live comfortably and be satisfied in knowing that they have contributed to our generation.

I am a strong advocate of retaining our traditional heritage and language and want to find ways to strengthen the teaching of our culture and language to more of our children in a structured environment.

I believe strongly in rewarding employees for doing a good job and contributing to the organization. I would like to see an awards program established that would reward deserving employees monetarily and create incentives to boost employees performance in the workplace.

Health and housing issues will have to be addressed one at a time. Problems within the system did not occur overnight and cannot be corrected overnight; however, I am willing to face and address this challenge and do what is best for tribal members.

Communications is very important to the success of any organization. I believe in keeping each other informed if we are to have a good, strong organization. Through communication with managers we can work together to develop ways to improve and enhance services to tribal citizens.

One of my concerns is the lack of an attorney for our citizens in probating estates. The cost of probating an estate is an expense that many of our citizens cannot afford. Consequently, many have lost their land through the years. By creating an attorney position specifically for probating estates, we would be able to help our tribal citizens retain their lands for themselves and for their heirs. This service would be a tremendous benefit for our tribe and would also alleviate the housing problem. When estates are probated and if land(s) can be divided, tribal members will be able to have their own land on which to build their homes.

My career in the federal government and tribal government has given me the experience and knowledge necessary to be a highly effective leader under the guidance of our Creator, and maintaining that personal contact with every tribal member. I have always had a compassion for the people. Many times I have been called upon by tribal citizens for assistance/direction within and outside the district I represent, and many times we were successful in assisting.

I see many things that can be accomplished. With teamwork and effort, we can accomplish many positive things for this tribe. My commitment will be to do my best and to do what will benefit all tribal members.

Second Chief candidates

Name: Perry Anderson

Age: 66

Residence: Eufaula

Family: spouse, 1na; three children; and six grandchildren

Parents: the late Perry and Gertrude Anderson, Okenah

Clan: Wotko

Church: Baptist

Tribal Town: Green Leaf

Experience: 31 years as classroom teacher and coach. Initiated the Creek Nation SYEP program in 1975. The program won the national merit award in 1980. Served as job developer and SYEP program Coordinator from 1988-92. Muscogee (Creek) Nation personnel manager since 1992 to present. B.S. — science; M.S. counseling-guidance; U.S. Army veteran

Reason for seeking office: To serve the citizens of the Creek Nation and communicate with all citizens, communities, churches, and ceremonial grounds — to work with all entities, divisions to provide quality service. If elected I will care out the duties of the office of second chief in accordance with the constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



Name: Wilson Bear

Age: 56

Residence: Checotah

Family: two daughters

Parents: Turner and Emily (Thomas) Bear Sr.

Clan: Bear

Church: Protestant

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:

Eufaulagee-Canadian

Experience: administrative specialist, National Council Representative, CLEET certified police officer.

Reason for seeking office: To help the Creek Nation prosper through better education and health services.



Name: A.D. Ellis

Age: 63

Residence: Twin Hills-Conchary Community

Parents: Doolie and Nellis Bruner Ellis

Grandparents: Billy and Adaline Bruner

Clan: Turtle

Church: Conchary United Methodist

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:

Lochapauka

Experience: Graduated from Twin Hills High School and later Tulsa Business College. I then entered the U.S. Air Force to complete two more training schools to qualify as crew chief on the jet fighter line. Worked in Albuquerque, N.M. and Tulsa in private industry and retired in 1988. First elected to National Council, Okmulgee District in 1991. I have been reelected three times by the Okmulgee District citizens. Elected to Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature in 1996 to represent Okmulgee and McIntosh counties on senior citizen issues statewide. Please inquire about my experience and record as National Council representative.

Reason for seeking office: I want our tribal leaders to think of more industry than cigarettes and bingo. Let's diversify. If nonIndians can build factories and create 100's of jobs, so can we. A long journey starts with a single step. Creek citizens, let's begin our journey toward success and self support. Let's unite and have a government of the people by the people for the people.



Name: Edwin Marshall

Age: 45

Residence: Wetumka

Family: spouse, Cheryl and one son, Jordan

Parents: the late Eliza Beaver and Louis Marshall

Grandparents: Lewis and Mandy Marshall

and Daniel Chotkey and Polly Lamey Beaver

Clan: Fushwv'ke

Church: Alabama-Coushatta Indian Baptist

Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:

Tukvptce

Experience: I am currently the director of the division of community services of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In this position I have worked directly with the principal chief and the National Council, as well as the judicial branch. I oversee and give direction to the five most crucial service programs for the tribe. I was appointed to this position in 1996 by the current principal chief and confirmed by the National Council. As a function of this office I serve on national as well as local boards and committees which relate to tribal services. Previous to this, I was elected in 1995 by the voters of Tukvptce District to represent them on the National Council. I have also served on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board, where I served as chairman. The previous principal chief appointed me in 1994 and the National Council confirmed me to that position as well. My background also includes involvement on the chartered community level having served in various capacities (including chairman) in the Wetumka Indian Community. I have also worked in positions with two other tribes with very similar tribal operations.

Reason for seeking office: I am seeking office because of my sincere desire to serve the Muscogee people with qualified, experienced, and capable leadership. I feel that I have a well-rounded combination of education (bachelor's in social work) experience, personality, commitment, dedication, sincerity, and humility to serve as a leader in this tribe. My diversity is also a quality which I feel is of utmost importance. I am bilingual and I read and write, fluently, the Mvskoke language.



Name: George Tiger**Age:** 49**Residence:** Sapulpa**Parents:** Rev. Coody and Lela Tiger**Clan:** Wind**Church:** Yardeka Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Hickory Ground**Experience:** I have served on the National Council for three terms as representative from Okmulgee and Creek districts. Served as liaison officer for the office of chief and second chief.

In one capacity or another I have worked at Creek Nation for total of approximately 13 years. In addition my experience in working with other tribes and Indian organizations has provided valuable experience and knowledge of federal programs. Other leadership experience are: chairman of the Title IX Indian Education program of the Sapulpa Public Schools; past president and vice president of Haskell Indian Nations University National Board of Regents; currently serving on the executive committee of the board; past vice chair, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, organization of tribal governments in Oklahoma — only person to have held the position who wasn't an elected chief, chairman, governor, or president of a tribe; coordinated the national public relations effort for the historic meeting of President Clinton and the tribal leaders at the White House in 1994; and executive director, Oklahoma American Indian Games, Inc.

Reason for seeking office: I believe the experience I have attained in leadership roles on a local, state and national level are valuable assets in seeking the office of second chief. The office of second chief is exactly what a person makes of it. I believe it should be someone that can serve as a chief of staff for the tribe and work closely with the chief, executive director, deputy directors, controller, attorney general and the National Council. The position could also be a liaison between the executive and legislative branch. That would be a positive step in attaining the goal of working in harmony. In addition my background in public relations and media would be a plus for developing such a position. I have prepared myself for this position and that is my reason for seeking the office of second chief.

**Name:** A. Dean Williams**Age:** 38**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** spouse, Elizabeth; two sons, Ronald and James**Guardian:** Bernha Brown**Grandparents:** Peggy Harper and Kogee Fields**Church:** Baptist

Experience: Employed with Creek Nation Natural Resources for four years, Creek Nation facilities for six years; and also assisted with the Creek Nation Head Start Policy Council for two years. I obtained a degree from Oklahoma State University in applied science. I have enjoyed volunteering my time to the Creek Nation Festival for nine years.

Reason for seeking Office: I believe I am the person who will finally stand up for our citizens and make a difference within the tribe. I know all about hard work and understand the need of our Muscogee people. Its time we bring honesty and integrity back into the Creek Nation.

There are more than 25 goals that I want to see accomplished within my tenure. Major areas of concern are the elderly and disabled programs. These programs need to be redesigned and formatted to meet all the needs of our older and-or disabled Creek citizens. I want to see more grants proposed to improve existing programs with an emphasis on our educational funding. By purchasing a larger land base, bigger and better business ventures could produce more than 300 jobs. With this would come more money to fall back on and less citizens being denied for assistance.

Other important goals and priorities include: additional assistance for churches and ceremonial grounds; construction of physical fitness facilities to increase athletic involvement; begin a drug and alcohol prevention and rehabilitation program; and provide a school supply and student athlete fund.

As your second chief, I will strive to make all my goals become realities. Your vote will be greatly appreciated. Mvto!



National Council candidates

Creek District Seat A

No contest**Name:** Sheridan Pickering**Age:** 23**Residence:** Sapulpa**Family:** spouse, Myra, and daughter, Shiloh**Parents:** Tom and Judy Pickering**Clan:** Racoon**Church:** West Eufaula Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Eufaula Canadian

Experience: associate's degree in business administration; former President of Eufaula Indian Youth Council; participating member of Native American Student Association.

Reason for seeking office: To inform all Creek county citizens of their privileges and to ensure their rights are upheld. Also work to preserve our culture and rights of the Nation, while continuing our growth into the new century.



Creek District Seat B

No contest**No candidate profile submitted****Name:** Duke Harjo

Creek District Seat C**Name:** Roy Bear**Age:** 58**Residence:** Bristow**Parents:** Roley Bear**Experience:** Council for eight years**Reason for seeking office:** To help the Creek people.**Creek District Seat C****Name:** Jacob Mosquito**Age:** 24**Residence:** Mounds**Family:** spouse, Misty; and one daughter, Alexandria**Parents:** Craig and Debbie Mosquito, Mounds**Grandparents:** Joe and Lena Mosquito, Hectorville and Tom and Mary Shirley, Okmulgee**Clan:** Bird**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Locapoka**Reason for seeking office:** I am Yuchi-Creek

and have been a resident of Mounds for 20 years and graduated there in 1993. I attended two years at Oklahoma State University and two years at the University of Indianapolis where I served as an ambassador. I pursued a degree in the college of arts and sciences with education as my minor. This position requires a strong voice and I know I can be an asset. I take pride in my community and would strive to be heard. I respect and value the ideas and suggestions of the elders throughout Creek country. I'd consider myself fortunate to be able to take part in your lives and would appreciate your consideration for me as your representative in Seat C of Creek County. Mvto.

**McIntosh District Seat A****Name:** Tommy Pickering**Age:** 43**Residence:** Eufaula**Family:** spouse, Judith; sons, Sheridan and Judd; and one granddaughter, Bluebird**Parents:** James A. and Edna R. Burgess Pickering**Clan:** Sweet Potato**Church:** West Eufaula Baptist**Tribal Town:** Hitchite**Experience:** nine years National Council; chaired and served on various committees and boards including:

Eufaula Indian Community, four consecutive terms as chair; health board ex-officio member; tribal affairs committee chair; economic development committee chair; roads committee chair; administrative office building committee; advisor to Eufaula Indian Youth Council; community services and cultural committee vice-chair

Reason for seeking office: Many McIntosh District community leaders and citizens have asked me to continue to run again to serve our district. My years of experience and ability to communicate and get along with others allows me to know the areas and means to help the citizens and their communities. There is so much to be done within the tribe and I feel that I offer the Nation experience and continuity to progress and accomplish its objectives efficiently.

**McIntosh District Seat A****Name:** Sue Bear Dalgarn**Residence:** Eufaula**Parents:** the late Caesar and Susie Johnson Bear**Grandparents:** the late Taylor Bear**Church:** Southern Baptist, Durango, CO

Experience: education for 30 years, retired teacher/counselor; have worked Job Corps; Bureau of Indian Affairs; public schools Oklahoma City; Shawnee/Earlsboro; and alternative. My purpose is to help those who seek assistance not only in my area, but wherever the need may be.

Reason for seeking office: I will do my best to help all Creek citizens not just a select few. Honesty is my best policy. I am sincere, understanding full-blood Creek speaking person. Helping people and to help you is my dedication.

**McIntosh District Seat B****No Contest****No candidate profile submitted****Name:** Wilbur C. Gouge**McIntosh District Seat C****No Contest****No candidate profile submitted****Name:** Thomas McIntosh

Muscogee District Seat A**No Contest****Name:** Helen L. Chupco**Age:** 80**Residence:** Muskogee**Family:** spouse, Rev. Lee Lindsey Chupco; son,

James Chupco and daughter, Waukomis Lewis

Parents: the late Rev. Billie and Bessie McCoser Palmer**Clan:** sweet potato**Church:** Methodist**Tribal town/ceremonial ground:** Tvkvptce**Experience:** graduate of Hill's Business University, Oklahoma City; principals of federal grants; contract and fiscal management and community development. She has sponsored numerous legislative bills and approved by National Council. She was a member of the committee that drafted the present day Creek Constitution.**Reason for seeking office:** to help further economic development program plans toward self-sufficiency; protect tribal sovereignty; and continue to listen to constituents their needs, problems and complaints to channels them to appropriate programs.**Muscogee District Seat B****No Contest****Name:** Harley Gene Little Sr.**Age:** 68**Residence:** Muskogee**Family:** spouse, Geraldine; daughter, Jeannette; and

sons, Gene Little Jr., and Kendall Jay Little

Parents/grandparents: the late Buster and Nora Little, Sam and Hepsey Little; Lovie and Harry

Douglas

Clan: Wind**Church:** First Baptist of Muskogee**Tribal town/ceremonial ground:** Nuyaka**Experience:** Education background with a degree from Bacone college, Northeastern State and University of Oklahoma; former Army officer veteran of the Korean War; have 28 years in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, of which five and a half years as agency superintendent in Okmulgee; employed as a director in the tribe for three years; and council member for five terms.**Reason for seeking office:** to continue to campaign for a program to make our tribal government accountable to our Creek people in service and respect; to strive to upgrade our services and make them known to our citizens; and hopefully help regain the status and respect our tribe once had in the eyes of this great nation.**Okfuskee District Seat A****Name:** Famous Marshall**Age:** 46**Residence:** Okemah**Family:** spouse, Lena; son, Famous Jr.; and daughter, Sunnie**Parents:** the late Rev. Jake and Nancy Chupco Marshall**Clan:** Wind**Church:** Qitarsarty Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Tukvpvtce**Experience:** Okfuskee council representative two years, program director; second administrator 17 years, consisting of developing and administering budgets, contracts, and implementing tribal and community programs, economic, development projects, 10 years private business owner/manager.**Reason for seeking office:** to meet the challenge of developing and promoting community and tribal economic development ventures; to secure and improve the Nation's health system through selective financial business practices; and to concentrate on issues affecting Creek citizens living outside the Nation's boundaries.**Okfuskee District Seat A****Name:** Wallace Gambler**Age:** 60**Residence:** Okemah**Family:** spouse, Essie; daughters, Melissa and Chandra**Parents/grandparents:** Martin and Lillian Proctor Gambler, Dave and Katie Ruth Proctor**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Grace Herkv Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Peach ground**Experience:** I do not have previous hands on experience but I have been able to observe the National Council in meetings and followed their operations and procedures very carefully and have some understanding of what their purpose are.**Reason for seeking office:** I believe it is time for a change. I am a 'full-blood' Creek citizen with true concern for the Creek people. Many words have been spoken with no results or even explanations. I as an individual cannot do anything, but all the representatives together can keep the welfare of our Creek citizens in sight and do the job we are elected for by our Creek citizens. I believe I will be able to accomplish this task.**Okfuskee District Seat A****Name:** Nancy Susan West Watson**Age:** 45**Residence:** Okemah**Family:** daughters, Angie and Alison**Parents/grandparents:** Calvin and the late Agnes Fixico West, the late George and Bessie Anderson West, and the late Willie Fixico and Sarah Hohahta**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Prairie Springs Baptist**Experience:** one term of office seat A

Muscogee Creek National Council 1996-98; certified social service directorship gives me experience in assisting our citizens with many of their concerns.

Reason for seeking office: I have a strong belief that I can help our Nation progress and become more productive with a lot of hard work and with accessing the aid of our natural resources — our people.**Okfuskee District Seat B****Name:** Bruce Smith**Age:** 43**Residence:** Weleetka**Family:** spouse, Vicky; daughter, Cheryl and son, Jason**Parents:** the late Willis and Sarah Riley Smith**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** Hvcecvpv**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Tukvpvtce**Experience:** Creek Nation employee 1978-1986;

Okfuskee district representative six years; serving on

the human development committee two years;

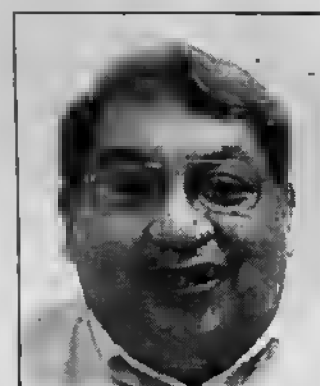
community service and cultural two years; tribal affairs committee two years; Graham

School Indian Education Committee, chairman; Graham School Board of Education, president;

Plainview Volunteer Fire Department, board member.

Reason for seeking office: to continue to help meet the needs of the Creek citizens of Okfuskee district and all the Creek citizens. To remain involved in the communities, keeping my constituents informed of the actions of the National Council. My priorities are education, health care, economic development, jobs, housing, more services for the elderly, churches and ceremonial grounds. I will continue to work hard for the best interest of the Creek citizens of Okfuskee district and all Creek citizens. Mvto.

Oktuskee District Seat B**Name:** Chas Ray Coleman**Age:** 62**Residence:** Weleetka**Family:** daughters, Marsha and Brenda**Parent/grandparents:** Arline Robison Coleman and Ray Coleman, Amos Robison and Cila Hill**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Alabama and First Baptist of Weleetka**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Thlopthlocco**Experience:** attended Euchee Boarding school, Jones Academy, Haskell Institution and Bacone College, a lesson in working with all tribal people. Served in U.S. Army and taught school. Since retiring, served on the Muscogee Nation Health Board.**Reason for seeking office:** Some people look at a rosebush and see the thorns, I rejoice because I see that the thornbush has roses. Yes our tribe has some problems but some good things too and I would like to help develop the good things.**Oktuskee District Seat B****Name:** H. Mae Jackson**Residence:** Okemah**Family:** spouse, Bobby and one son**Parents:** Phillip and Annie Monday Tiger**Clan:** Bear**Church:** Skyview Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Fish Pond**Experience:** six years council member, over 20 years in Indian programs.**Reason for seeking office:** Lines of communication or access to our governmental offices or representatives has slowly declined. Citizens don't hear much of any accomplishments, we only experience the results of lack of concern and action from self-serving representatives not to cohorts serving in offices.**Oktuskee District Seat C****Name:** Billy S. Fife**Age:** 57**Residence:** Weleetka**Family:** spouse, Mary; son, Jeff; and daughter, Cinda**Parents:** the late James and Carmen Fife**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** Thlewarle Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Tukvptce**Experience:** tribal employee 10 years, Principal Chief 1992-95, National Council 1988-91 and 1997-99.**Reason for seeking office:** To represent Oktuskee District on the national legislature and to work toward improving laws which govern health care, education and economic development.**Oktuskee District Seat C****Name:** Sandi Golden**Age:** 49**Residence:** Weleetka**Parents:** Minnie Jeffley and Eugene Golden**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Springfield Methodist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Nuyaka**Experience:** I have 15 years experience serving on committees boards and advisory council. Three years as member of Indian advisory committee for Census Bureau (2 years chair) and also training for boards. I am healthy — no smoking and no drinking.**Reason for seeking office:** Help people, all Creek people and be involved with changes that will affect our tribe for the future. It is time to work for the people instead of talking about it. Make our people priority.**OKMULGEE DISTRICT SEAT A****No Contest****Name:** David Lewis**Age:** 65**Residence:** Henryetta**Family:** spouse, Lillie Lewis and 4 children**Parents/grandparents:** the late Rev. David B. and Sallie Jacobs Lewis, Jeanetta Jacobs**Clan:** Bird**Church:** West Eufaula**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Hickory Ground**Experience:** During my tenure as your National Council representative, I have missed only one council meeting, due to illness, over a three year period, introduced more legislative bills than any other representative (bills related to direct client services), and authored legislation to issue tribal license tags.**Reason for seeking office:** I also recognize the importance of benefit programs for all tribal citizens, regardless of where they live. With this in mind, I have authored a bill that would provide burial assistance funded through life insurance policies for all tribal citizens. Such a measure would ensure an applicant for assistance could not be denied. As your representative, I am seeking your continued support in this election. There is more work that remains to be done. Mvto.**Okmulgee District Seat B****Name:** Keeper James Johnson**Age:** 60**Residence:** Morris**Family:** spouse, Martha; two sons, Keeper Jr. and Rojer**Parents:** Harbor and Bettie McHenry Johnson**Grandparents:** Lewis and Silla Tiger McHenry and Keeper and Jenetta Scott McHenry**Clan:** Tiger**Church:** Belvin Baptist of Okmulgee**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Coweiv**Experience:** I was employed for 28 years of public service as an vocational rehabilitation counselor in Okmulgee. I have served as a chairperson at Creek Nation housing authority for many years during its initial phase and was a member of the health board of the building of the new Indian health hospital in Claremore. I served as chairperson as Title IV program for our Indian children in the Morris community for many years. I am currently a chairperson of our senior citizens of our Muscogee Nation, which we were instrumental in a bill for our beginning of a senior citizens division.**Reason for seeking office:** My past experience and education, involved in health, housing and persons of disabling conditions, budgets, persons from all walks of life, children, teenagers, unwed mothers, single parents, men and women, senior citizens, and concerns of ceremonial grounds and church folks of our Muscogee Nation and our direction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of our past, current, and future.

Okmulgee District Seat B**Name:** Willie B. Murphy**Age:** 61**Residence:** Henryetta**Family:** Spouse, Karen**Parents:** Mollie and Willie Murphy**Church:** Hickory Ground #1**Experience:** public relations service in military communications, disabled and needy children assistance program.**Reason for seeking office:** to enhance services to the elderly and provide recreational programs for young kids.**Okmulgee District Seat C****Name:** Garry E. Berryhill**Age:** 53**Residence:** Mounds**Family:** son, Garry**Parents:** the late Neffie G. and Jaunita Bighead Berryhill**Clan:** Alligator**Church:** Pickett Chapel United Methodist**Tribal Town:** Duck Creek**Experience:** Retired from the U.S. Navy with more than 22 years service. Served as administrative officer at various operational commands and admiral's staff, was office manager for the chief of Naval operations office for JCS matters in the Pentagon. Served with Task Force 116 in Vietnam. Served as engineering department office manager and security NCO for Mercury Test Site, Defense Atomic support agency; also served as DOD Representative at the Atomic Energy Commission, Las Vegas, Nevada; Commander Carrier Division Seven staff; several ships, afloat admiral's staff, personal staff of the chief of Naval operations, and personal staff of Admiral Bill Crowe. Last duty was administrative chief at Seal Team Three, Coronado, Calif. Currently employed as legal assistant to attorney Daniel C. Nunley, Tulsa.**Reason for seeking office:** We absolutely must focus on how to make more money, rather than just on how to spend what we have. The effort must be equal. I want the Creek Nation to be recognized as the owners of not only one truck stop and bingo halls but as owners of construction companies, pizza shops, dry cleaners, restaurants, loan companies, and print shops.**Okmulgee District Seat C****Name:** Charley LaSarge**Age:** 46**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** spouse, Della Mae Dunzy LaSarge; children, Charley, Charlotte, Chuck, and Camron**Parents:** Lucy McIntosh LaSarge and Bourbon Jerome LaSarge**Grandparents:** Rev. Newman C. and Annie Kemells McIntosh**Church:** Okmulgee Indian Baptist**Tribal Town:** Tulsa Canadian**Experience:** 12 years manager for Creek Nation; 22 years supervisor experience; chairman of Okmulgee Indian Community since 1996; chairperson of Oklahoma-New Mexico Food Action Committee for Tribes for eight years; four years first vice president for the National Association for Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations; vice chair for two years with the Southwest Region Advisory Committee.**Reason for seeking office:** Health, education, economic development, community relations, youth programs, and a good working relationship with the National Council, judicial system, and the administration. Only through strong leadership and dedication can we begin to make a difference in the lives of our people. Economic development must be continually sought and sound proposals developed to provide a resource of employment and support for our people. Our people have a right to work, and it is my feeling the tribal government should be about the creation of jobs for those who need and choose to work. In the coming months and years, federal and other subsidized programs will become increasingly dependent on tribal funding, if continued. Now, is the time to plan for the future.**Okmulgee District Seat C****Name:** Anderson Hale**Age:** 55**Residence:** Mounds**Family:** spouse, Norma; and son, William**Parents:** the late Billy and Lucy Coker Hale**Church:** Baptist Snake Creek #1**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Fish Pond**Experience:** had serve as council representative of Okmulgee two terms 94-98. Knowledge in tribal affair, election, and elderly programs.**Reason for seeking office:** to help and keep our program going for our Indian people.**Okmulgee District Seat D****Name:** Donald Washington**Age:** 49**Residence:** Morris**Family:** spouse, Jeanette; 3 sons; and 1 daughter**Parents/grandparents:** the late Faldo and Lilian Checotah Washington, the late Martin and Louise Harjo Checotah, and the late Samuel Checote**Church:** Concharty Methodist**Experience:** past experience in the planning department of the Creek Nation and in planning of Creek Nation projects.**Reason for seeking office:** want to diversify our economic base and get into more stable money making operations. Improve the creek peoples personal economy and health services.**Okmulgee District Seat D****Name:** Sandra Tumer Peters**Age:** 54**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** Marion, Justus, Elizabeth, and Rebecca**Parents/grandparents:** Reuben and Fannie Tumer, Thomas and Polly Cook**Clan:** Wind**Church:** Trinity Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Arbeka-Tullegada**Reason for seeking office:** Responsible government is the most important part of any government. Leadership is the key to good government. Education of both adults and youth will benefit the future of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. A strong people develop strong governments. The initiative of the people is the heart of any government. The Muscogee Nation will need to protect the young who can not defend themselves, the employee who gives his lifeblood for the people, the people who sustain the family and the elderly who have already paved the way for us to follow. I dedicate myself to the heart of the people and the laws which govern them. Seeking valid and lucrative avenues to aid the tribal management of our Nation. To pray for guidance from God. Bringing them by his love for the "people."

Okmulgee District Seat D**Name:** Fred Jones**Age:** 50**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** sons, Patrick and Brian**Parents:** the late Walter and Mary Yahola Jones**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** Montezoma**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Nuyaka**Experience:** speak the creek language; willing to work hard for you.**Reason for seeking office:** to see tribal members owning businesses and be self supportive and creek language taught in school systems.**Okmulgee District Seat E****Name:** Peggy Lyda**Age:** 59**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** spouse, Recy; and three daughters, Sherry, Cindy, and Tara**Parents/grandparents:** Bernice Harjo Thomas and the late Albert Thomas John and Peggy Pigeon Harjo and John and Rose Anne Scott Thomas**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** Wetumka Indian Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Wewoka**Experience:** National Council representative two years; serving on community services committee; facts finding committee; and also Creek Nation Foundation Board.**Reason for seeking office:** I feel a change is needed and ask for an opportunity to represent you, the citizens of Creek Nation, to strive to improve current services for the people, to under take the issues facing our nation, turning them around to benefit the needs of the people.

I have kept myself informed of the government which affects us all. I hope to continue in the direction as your representative.

**Okmulgee District Seat E****Name:** David D. Nichols**Age:** 43**Residence:** Okmulgee**Family:** Ginger, David Jr., and Jason Nichols**Parents/grandparents:** the late Boh Harjo; Joan Nichols Fixico; and William and Eta Harjo and Joe and Margie Fixico**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** Saltcreek United Methodist**Tribal Town:** Tukvptce**Experience:** three consecutive terms (1994-99). During my first term I was elected sergeant-at-arms and also served on the human development education committee and my second term was elected chairman of the human development committee. Presently I am serving on the community services committee as vice-chairman and also currently serving on the National Council fact-finding committee as vice-chairman.**Reason for seeking office:** My reason for seeking office is to see that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation government can continue to meet the needs of our tribal citizens through tribal programs health care, housing, education and programs for our tribal elders and youth. Each of the programs mentioned must be high on priority. The future of the Muscogee Nation depends on good leadership, economic development and most important vision. We must act now because the future is now. If there is no vision for the Muscogee Nation there will be no future. I will work to insure a future for the Muscogee Nation.**Tukvptce District Seat A
No Contest****Name:** Dwayne Lowe**Residence:** Wetumka**Family:** spouse, Janice; four daughters, Leslie, Angie, Stephanie, and Dawn; and one son, Pacer**Parents/grandparents:** the late George Lowe and Esther Cain, the late Comma Lowe and Suzanne Long**Clan:** Sweet Potato**Church:** Yeager Methodist Church**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Tukvptce**Experience:** obtained a bachelor of arts in sociology from East Central University, 1978; Creek Nation JTPA 1979-81 and DHS Holdenville 1982-97**Tukvptce District Seat B****Name:** James R. McGirt**Age:** 65**Residence:** Holdenville**Family:** son, John R. McGirt**Parents:** Moses and Emily Cornell McGirt**Grandparents:** Jim and Annie Larney McGirt and Willie and Manie Cornell**Clan:** Bear**Church:** Many Springs**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** New Tulsa**Experience:** contract management negotiation and management with McDonnell Douglas Aircraft; technical publications development, contracting and administration with North American Aviation; business development; management consulting and systems development and high tech training development; teaching; and President of American Indian Enterprises, Inc. of California.**Reason for seeking office:** to advocate a progressive, aggressive program of economic development for the MCN; to advocate development of a wider space of service and activities targeting the elderly; and to support a progressive health program.**Tukvptce District Seat B****Name:** Phillip Steven Yargee**Age:** 39**Residence:** Wetumka**Family:** spouse, Kizzie; two daughters, Crystal and Christina; and one son, Mvskoke**Parents:** Winey Yargee and the late Phillip Yargee**Clan:** Ak'tvyat'ce**Ceremonial ground:** Alabama Quarsarte**Experience:** My experience with tribal government began early. I have been involved in the ceremonial form of government since I was a child. I was taught the hierarchy and structure which we pattern much of our tribal government today. I am now tustenugee at the ceremonial ground. My experience also includes holding office at the Wetumka Indian Community as vice-president and in the Alabama Quarsarte Tribal Town where I am a governing committee member.**Reason for seeking office:** I am very concerned about the education of our children and the availability of opportunities for higher education in the future. I am concerned for our elderly population. I feel that they don't receive adequate assistance in obtaining the services that the tribe can provide. I also think that our tribe could place more emphasis on elderly services than we do now. Finally, I feel that in order to progress our tribe needs open minded legislators that are willing to move toward for the good of the citizens.

Tukvptce District Seat C**Name:** Nathan Buck**Age:** 62**Residence:** Holdenville**Family:** spouse, Mary Lou; two sons, Mitch and Robin Ray; and two daughters, Anita and Michelle**Parents:** Nathan Buck Sr. and Alice Buck**Clan:** Bird**Church:** Many Spring Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:**

Eufaulgee

Reason for seeking office: for better communication**Tukvptce District Seat C****Name:** David Siah Yargee**Age:** 58**Residence:** Wetumka**Parents:** the late Sam and Malinda Barnett**Clan:** Bird**Church:** Sand Creek Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:**

Thlopthlocco

Experience: military social rehabilitation**Reason for seeking office:** an asset to the district; and very familiar to the wants and needs of the people.**Tulsa District Seat A****No Contest****Name:** Larry S. Bible**Age:** 48**Residence:** Glenpool**Family:** spouse, Shelly; 3 sons, Jarod, Gabriel, and Larry Jr.; and one daughter, Andrea**Parents:** the late Andy and Joann Bible**Clan:** Bird**Experience:** 8 terms National Council member**Reason for seeking office:** to continue helping our people.**Tulsa District Seat B****Name:** Mary Sue Peak**Age:** 58**Residence:** Tulsa**Family:** 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandson**Parents:** Rev. William Alexander and the late Mary Harjo Alexander**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Indian Fellowship Baptist of Oakhurst**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Greenleaf**Experience:** employee of Claremore Indian Hospital for 25 years; accounting technician for billing office; Creek Nation election board member 1995-96.**Reason for seeking office:** To promote health, housing, education, and economic issues for all Creek peoples.**Tulsa District Seat B****Name:** Ronald Allen Cleghorn**Age:** 49**Residence:** Tulsa**Parents:** James G. and Irene Jacobs Cleghorn**Grandparents:** John A. and Nancy Tea Jacobs**Clan:** Sweet Potato**Church:** First Baptist of Tulsa**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** New Tulsa**Experience:** Have previously served 1 term as National Council representative for the Tulsa District 1996-97.**Reason for seeking office:** I will sponsor and support legislation that benefits all Creek citizens. This would include the following areas: elderly nutrition, education, child care, housing and health. Speaking of health, one priority that requires immediate attention is diabetic care. Preventive care through proper diet should be stressed at all costs. We must develop economic projects to create jobs for our citizens and help offset anticipated cuts in federal funding to our tribe. We need to recognize our Creek veterans who served their country and defended our freedom. I would encourage tribal citizens to use me as a human resource person to help them with locating services the tribe offers. I would be visible and accessible to serve you with honesty and integrity to the best of my ability. Mvto.**Tulsa District Seat C****No Contest****Name:** Earl W. King**Age:** 59**Residence:** Tulsa**Family:** spouse, Marian; two sons, Wyley and David; and one daughter, Melanie**Parents/grandparents:** Rev. David and Annie King and Henry and Amanda Micco**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Montezuma**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Nuyaka**Experience:** Council representative, two terms; served on committees for business and governmental and tribal affairs; legislative initiatives, child development, economic development, technology for community centers, senior citizens; previous member, Claremore Indian Hospital Board; honorable discharge U.S. Navy; business degree ORU; American Airlines employee for 33 years.**Reason for seeking office:** to continue working for the same progressive ideals of housing, education, health, employment, culture, and social services; that will best serve families of the Tulsa District. As your representative, I will endorse quality regionalized tribal programs that insure fair treatment for all citizens. Our district deserves experienced leaders to speak out for the needs of each and every tribal member and with your support I will continue serving with the same sensitivity to family needs I did in my previous terms. "Est Mvskokvlke, Earl King Ensavks Mvto."

Tulsa District Seat D**Name:** Gloria Factor Lowe**Age:** 48**Residence:** Tulsa**Family:** spouse, Jonas Lowe; two sons, Barry and Vince; and one daughter, Kim**Parents/grandparents:** Betsy and late Joseph Factor, Topley and Lizzie Powell; and Lily and Cinda Hill**Clan:** Wind**Church:** Big Cussetah**Experience:** Worked for Muscogee Nation BIA and 18 years with Army Corps of Engineers. Served three terms on TCIC Board of Directors as secretary, treasurer and sergeant of arms. Served on Mayors Commission on Indian Affairs for Greater Tulsa area. Has served as President Local 386, MEFE, since 1996, and as secretary/treasurer for two years previous.**Reason for seeking office:** Every person who is able should serve their Nation in one way or another. This is one way to do it. I am a hard worker, team worker. I have been down the same road many Mvskokvlke are traveling today. I want to help make that road an easier one to travel. I have learned the only thing constant is change, and I want to help make change beneficial to the Muscogee Nation.

However, we must preserve our identity, our culture, our sovereignty. We must respect our elders and the old ways.

**Tulsa District Seat D****Name:** Robert L. Hufft**Age:** 46**Residence:** Broken Arrow**Family:** spouse, Dana; and four children Lauren, Ale, Avery, and Jean**Parents/grandparents:** Betty Grayson Jones and Eliza Taylor George**Clan:** Deer**Church:** Asbury United Methodist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Polecat**Experience:** I have a bachelor of science degree from OSU and I have over 21 years of business experience. I formerly worked for the Creek Nation in the accounting department and I am presently sitting on the Creek Nation Council.**Reason for seeking office:** I believe my business experience can be a positive attribute to the tribe. I believe we need to be focusing on business opportunities to enhance the education and health of all Yuchi and Creek citizens.**Tulsa District Seat E****No Contest****Name:** Jess E. Kelley**Age:** 52**Residence:** Tulsa**Family:** spouse, Barbara and one son, Lance**Parents:** the late Mary Lee Charley Day and Jesse A. Kelley**Clan:** Bear**Church:** Haikey Chapel United Methodist**Experience:** National Council representative for the past 6 years; past member and chairman of the Creek Nation Election Board; member of Haikey Chapel Board of Trustees; and U.S. Marine Corps.**Reason for seeking office:** My desire to continue to serve as your Tulsa District representative to provide information to tribal members so they are informed of services and benefit available to them. I believe in checks and balances in our tribal government. Also, I will continue to support the Tulsa and Glenpool Indian Community centers health care, housing, and education will continue to be a priority.**Wagoner District Seat A****No Contest****Name:** Richard M. Berryhill**Age:** 55**Residence:** Coweta**Family:** spouse, Wilma L. Miller Berryhill**Parents:** Sam and Viola McIntosh Berryhill**Clan:** Bird**Church:** Cedar Creek Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Hitichita**Experience:** council representative for 10 years; 6 years on business and government; and 4 years on human development.**Reason for seeking office:** Helping and assisting our people is my top priority building a strong government to insure our tribes future, and protection of tribal sovereignty culture and heritage.**Wagoner District Seat B****Name:** Barbara Gillespie**Age:** 61**Residence:** Coweta**Family:** two sons**Parents/grandparents:** Mose Childers and Violet Childers Freeman; Benjamin Childers; Annie Childers; and Alice Burgess Williams**Clan:** Sweet Potato**Church:** First Baptist**Tribal Town/ceremonial ground:** Locupokv**Experience:** real estate broker sales manager; retail sales; 6 years on National Council; rancher.**Reason for seeking office:** Provide more and better services to our Creek citizens. Update and strengthen our current tribal laws and provide better enforcement. Make our tribe more progressive and prosperous and protect our sovereignty.**Wagoner District Seat B****Name:** Delores Jean Perryman Hamilton**Residence:** Coweta**Family:** spouse, William; one son, Will; and one daughter, Anne**Parents/grandparents:** Sam Perryman and Ethel Stephen; Samuel and Malissa Perryman Sr.**Clan:** Raccoon**Church:** First Baptist of Coweta**Experience:** past president of Koweta Indian Community.**Reason for seeking office:** to work for the good of our Nation.



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Incumbent principal chief, National Council speaker to be in run-off

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver topped the list of candidates vying to lead the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a result of the Sept. 18 primary election.

Beaver bested the contenders with 872 votes (22.77 percent) followed by National Council Speaker Kenneth L. Childers' 782 votes (20.42 percent). The office of principal chief will be decided in the Dec. 4 general election race between Beaver and Childers.

More than 3,800 votes were divided among the seven candidates. The finishing order is as follows:

- Graydon Flud, 595 (15.54 percent);
- Thomas Yahola, 580 (15.15 percent);
- George B. Almerigi, 573 (14.96 percent);
- Roger D. Barnett, 358 (9.35 percent); and
- Joseph T. Rogers, 69 (1.80 percent).

Almerigi, elected to office of second chief in 1995, will officially relinquish his duties in January.

Barnett and Yahola, representatives to the Creek and Tukvptce districts, respectively, will relinquish their positions in January also.

The office of second chief will be decided in the Dec. 4 general election race between George Tiger and A.D. Ellis, both current National Council representatives.

Election results are as follows (names with out corresponding vote totals indicate no contest; asterisks (*) indicate runoffs in the Dec. 4 general election):

Second chief

- *George Tiger — 1,102
- *A.D. Ellis — 1,005
- Perry Anderson — 744
- Edwin Marshall — 505
- A. Dean Williams — 255
- Wilson Bear — 189

Creek District

- Seat A: Sheridan Pickering
- Seat B: Duke Harjo
- Seat C:
- Jacob Mosquito — 186
- Roy Bear — 139

Muscogee Election 99

- Precinct voting registration deadline: Nov. 24
- General election: Dec. 4

Council Oak Tree commemoration scheduled

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community is commemorating the arrival of the first contingent of Maskokvlke to the area with song, prayer, and the lighting of a symbolic fire at the Council Oak Tree on Oct. 23.



photo by Stephanie Barnett

Eunice Hill, Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground, addresses the crowd during the latter half of the commemoration held at Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center last year.

Each year the community, in partnership with the Muscogee National Council, commemorates the arrival of Maskoke to this area. This first group of Maskokvlke — the Locvpoka — brought with them, 169 years ago, ashes from their sacred ceremonial

fire. They spread the ashes beneath an oak tree overlooking the Arkansas River and, with this, established their tribal town and the beginnings of the city Tulsa.

This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Thomas P. Berryhill. Berryhill — an artist, musician, and former representative to the National Council — was actively involved the commemoration planning in its early years.

The Council Oak Tree is located at 18th and Cheyenne Ave. The agenda for the ceremony is as follows:

- 1 p.m. — Mvskoke song and invocation
- Welcome — Kenneth Childers, National Council Speaker
- Special entertainment — Muscogee Nation Office of Child Care
- Introduction of dignitaries — Carol Morris, TCIC vice chair
- Introduction of mekkos and lighting of symbolic fire — Eunice Hill, Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground
- Statement from principal chief — R. Perry Beaver
- Reading of proclamation — Carol Morris
- Keynote address — Oklahoma Sen. E. Kelly Haney
- Closing remarks — Eunice Hill and Edwin Marshall, Muscogee Nation Community Services Director
- Benediction

A stickball game, stomp dance, and meal will be held following the commemoration at 2 p.m. at TCIC Center located at 8611 S. Union.

Arts and crafts booths are available for \$20 — chairs and tables will not be provided; booth space is available at no cost to Muscogee tribal citizens.

For more information, call (918) 298-2464.

Muscogee Film Festival being held

TULSA — The second Muscogee Film Festival is being held Nov. 11 through 13 at Oklahoma State University Tulsa North Hall, 700 N. Greenwood.

At 6 p.m., Nov. 11 a traditional Maskoke dinner will be held at OSU Tulsa North Hall. Following the dinner, Millie Ketcheshawno's "We hold the Rock," will be shown. Tickets to the event are \$7.

The festival will continue at 6 p.m., Nov. 12 with Wes Studi introducing and showing his independent feature "Bonnie Lookaway's Iron Art Wagon."

For more information, call Gerald Wofford at (918) 756-8700, ext. 220 or e-mail comm1@ocenvnet.org

McIntosh District

- Seat A:
- Tommy Pickering — 372
- Sue A. Dalgarn — 193
- Seat B: Wilbur C. Gouge
- Seat C: Thomas McIntosh

Muskogee District

- Seat A: Helen Chupco
- Seat B: Harley Gene Little

Okfuskee District

- Seat A:
- Famous Marshall — 256

Letters to the editor

Writer seeks to interview "invisible" Natives Editor:

I have begun writing a book that will discuss the life stories of America's "invisible" Native Americans — those among our brothers and sisters in all nations who have had trouble proving to tribal or federal governments that they are indeed native.

It was inspired by experience within my own family. My wife is half native, mostly Yaqui. Since most Yaqui families who settled in California never registered with the U.S. government, she cannot "prove" who she is. On the other hand, I have a low blood quantum, but since my mother and grandmother were already enrolled, I had no trouble obtaining citizenship in the Muscogee Nation.

We have always been bemused by the irony and it has affected both our life paths in many subtle ways. So, I'm seeking out other native brothers and sisters to talk with, to discover how being "invisible" in the eyes of officiality has affected their lives, families, and spirit.

If anybody has ever had such problems, past or present, I would be interested in hearing your personal story — your struggle to maintain a native identity in the face of a dominant culture that does not even see you.

Individuals may send a short note or a long letter, whatever feels comfortable, and we can take it from there. If you request anonymity, I won't publish your real name.

My address is: 747 Keamey St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530. My e-mail address is: thegrail@a.crl.com.

For those that are interested, I have published an essay on the World Wide Web, "My Native American Family History" (www.crl.com/~thegrail/native/family.html), that includes rare photographs and documents dating back to the nineteenth century.

Steven David Anderson, El Cerrito, Calif.

Couple thanks well-wishers for party

Editor:

We wish to thank everyone for the gifts that were given to us on our 50th wedding anniversary and for attending the surprise party given for us — it was, indeed, a surprise.

A special thanks is extended to those for all the hard work involved in planning the party: our sisters, Johnnie Kalinich; Minnie Faxon; Cowena Anderson; Doreen Buck; and Linda Buck. Mvto.

Jody and James Bruner, Antlers

Man offers tribute to health representatives

Editor:

The Muscogee Indians of the Creek Nation have many programs for different situations.

One good program they operate is the community health representatives — they are precise and very efficient by far. I know not the work description in what they do — they all seem to be knowledgeable and care for you. They know a lot in about health care, they are assigned a district and are always there.

Nearly everyday to a shut-in home visit they'll make it. They are concerned for your health. Somedays they are asked to transport someone — they are always doing paper work and reports.

We are all glad to have someone to depend on — the handicap that stay home without any phone. We hope they keep CHR here and don't take them away, we appreciate them and need them each and every day.

Buckner Buck, Holdenville

Woman seeks late artist's family members

Editor:

I possess three original pieces of artwork painted by the late Fred Beaver in 1959. They are professionally framed with Alpha matting for preservation.

Eventually, I am going to return these paintings to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Between now and then, I would like to know the significance of the paintings because of my own personal interest.

I would also like to locate any family members of the late Fred Beaver.

My mailing address is: 9926 Wagon Train, Converse, Texas 78109-1613. My e-mail address is: louisgray@worldnet.att.net.

Kathy Gray, Converse, Texas

Former Little Miss Mvskoke says mvto

Editor:

My daughter, Alexandria Mosquito, was 1998-1999 Little Miss Mvskoke Nation, division I. She is currently residing in Middleton, Ohio and was unable to attend the tribal pageant in June.

She would like to congratulate the new Little Miss Mvskoke Nation and wish her the best of luck. She also extends her gratitude to the Little Miss Mvskoke Nation Committee for their support. Mvto.

Jacob Mosquito, Mounds

Red Feathers coach thanks supporters

Editor:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Red Feathers Team, I would like to thank the parents who attended our games and the people who helped with the fundraisers.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the following contributors: Roy and Richard Vier, Traveler's Protective Association; Phillip Glass, Creek Nation Okmulgee Bingo; Ray Barnett, Thlophlocco Bingo; Ed Moore, Residence Services; and Okmulgee Wal-Mart.

I would also like to congratulate the winner of our big basket of groceries, Judy Kelsey of Henryetta.

Carl West, Bristow

Woman wants preschoolers included

Editor:

This letter is in regard to the school clothing program for children enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

I requested an application for my daughter, Christian McGirt, who started pre-kindergarten at Earlsboro School this year. I was told that pre-kindergarten students are not eligible for the program.

I don't understand why pre-kindergarten — which has to follow the same guidelines as kindergarten regarding dress code, immunizations, etc. — is not included in the program.

In my opinion, it is less expensive to assist parents with clothing while they are in school than to pay for them to be in child care all day.

I realize that it may not be feasible to change the program, but I hope — in the future — these things may be considered. Thank you for your time.

Kelly James McGirt, Earlsboro

Notice of Hearing

In the matter of: T.D.W., minor Creek child, case no. JV-97-04

To: Christopher Linker, Lamont Ousley, Lamont Ousely, Lamont Ousley, Lamont Owsley, father of T.D.W.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on November 19, 1999, at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement or pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of September, 1999.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Teylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Claude A. Cox

Chief establishes tribe as a leader in the early era of modern tribal sovereignty

by Gerald Wofford

The Muscogee (Creek) century has been a unique one. As an adequate representative of Native American tribes everywhere, this tribe has experienced the hardships and victories of tribes everywhere.

In some cases, it has led in the fight — the fight for sovereignty, health issues, and educational standards just to name a few. This, in spite of a national government that sometimes only looked for the demise of the American Indian through attempts to outlaw previous treaties or statutes that they themselves had agreed to. Although many laws and statutes were established in the previous century, it would be in this century that the treaties would either be honored or broken.

The beginning of this century saw Indian tribes everywhere fighting for their cultural survival and legal right to exist. The Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory saw their governmental rights severely abolished when laws such as the Curtis Act came into effect. The goal of the U.S. government was to assimilate the Indian and simply do away with his governmental voice. To have him fit in with society by melting him in the great American melting pot.

It would almost seem logical, in a way, that this would work. After all, all of America was working together now and the country was becoming strong. Why not join in with everyone else and become a functional part of society?

The American Indian probably would have accepted his place in society back then, if only given the full freedoms that the Europeans had in declaring their right to make a home of this land called America. Instead, the aboriginal peoples of this land were herded off to unknown lands, against their own wishes to start life new. Reservation life sometimes awaited them, forcing many tribes to stop functioning independently. Tribes that once provided for themselves through hunting and fishing, began to rely on the government agencies to feed them.

Instead of being welcomed into this great society, the Indian was treated as an outcast in his own homeland. This was possibly the greatest cause the Native Americans found in fighting for their sovereign rights to be counted and making sure the U.S. government kept their word in treaties established long ago.

The fight for sovereignty has continued today,

although for many decades — from the beginning of this century to the 1970s — Native American tribes did not have a voice in their own affairs or the right to govern themselves. For example, the chief or leader of the tribe was usually appointed by the President of the United States. And then it was usually only to fill a ceremonial role and did not really have any authority in tribal decision making.

Not until 1970, with the passing of the Five Civilized Tribes Act, did the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation begin electing their own political leaders again. This was truly an historic time for the tribe. For the first time since statehood, this Indian tribe would actually vote

During his tenure as chief, he served as chair of the Five Civilized Tribes Intertribal Council. He remained actively involved with tribal affairs and was a member of the tribal health board up until his death.

Cox, like just about any leader, was controversial at times. Depending on who you speak with, he was and still is either looked upon as a strong leader or completely disliked.

The fact remains, though, that he was involved at a crucial time when the Muscogee (Creek) Tribe, as well as tribes all over the country, were given the right to govern themselves.

Even though this right was re-established by law, it would still be up to each individual tribe as to how they would govern themselves — how committed they were to this cause, and exactly how they would define, interpret, and redesign them-

selves. In this modern time when fledgling tribal governments were deciding, Cox did take the initiative to give the tribe its identity to fight for its administrative rights and establish it as a leader in the early era of modern tribal sovereignty.

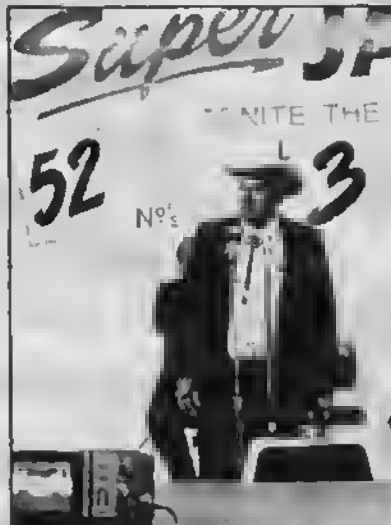
Former U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon was among many leaders that saluted Cox at a Five Civilized Tribes Honor Banquet in 1990.

Bellmon recalls many times while arriving at his Washington, D.C. office in the early morning hours, that "Claude Cox would already be there" waiting for him, ready to discuss and settle tribal matters back home.

Claude Cox

passed away on December 11, 1997.

As we look back at a time in this century when the Muscogee (Creek) Nation needed a leader who was willing to bull-doze his way through bureaucratic policies and establish how this tribe would proclaim its right to survive and exercise its sovereignty. Claude Cox was the man needed at the time.



Cox with Henry Bellmon

on a selected candidate to lead them, and the tribe would have the right to govern themselves through the passing of their own laws and statutes.

The first election saw Claude Allen Cox elected to the position of principal chief.

Cox would be elected to five consecutive four-year terms before retiring in 1991.

He began rebuilding tribal government by working on land claims, health services, and housing, as well as securing federal, social, and welfare services. He was instrumental in reestablishing the tribal land base as well as the Muscogee capitol with the construction of tribal headquarters.

Cox tested the limits of tribal sovereignty by establishing bingo halls within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He defended successfully the Nations right to conduct gaming at the Supreme Court level. Its ruling reaffirmed tribal sovereignty and became a standard for protecting the rights of Oklahoma tribes in the area of gaming.

Programs-notices

Business center offers assistance to Indians

OKMUGLEE — An Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center representative will be offering technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in starting a business or who are currently in business from 1 to 3 p.m., Oct. 8.

The center provides technical assistance in the areas of: business plan development; financial packaging; and government procurement assistance. The services are available at no cost to the client.

The representative will be at the Muscogee Nation Tribal Capitol Complex, administrative conference room, located at U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

For more information or an appointment, call ONABDC at (918) 592-1113.

Family violence prevention programs

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program and STOP Violence Against Indian Women Project provide help for domestic violence victims.

The family violence prevention program provides short-term emergency financial assistance and operates a transitional living program for domestic violence victims and their families.

The STOP Violence Against Indian Women Project collaborates with other tribal agencies and the local domestic violence shelter in order to provide a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The project also has a male batterer treatment program that is currently accepting referrals.

For more information about the Family Violence Program, contact Joy McGee or Mike Burnside at 1 (800) 521-5432. For more information about the STOP Violence Program or to request a domestic violence presentation, contact Debra Gee at 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 301.

Military Hall of Fame accepting nominations

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Hall of Fame is now accepting nominations for its year 2000 induction.

Anyone may nominate an Oklahoman to the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame by submitting a brief biography of the nominee meeting the following criteria: made a significant contribution to the development of United States Military Science; made a significant contribution to the development of United States Military Technology; and served with conspicuous honor and distinction in the United States Armed Services.

Non-Oklahomans whose military service or related contributions have played a significant role in the history of Oklahoma may also be nominated.

Nominations should be submitted by Oct. 31 to: Oklahoma Department, Reserve Officers Association, ATTN: Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, 1018 S. Lewis St., Stillwater, OK 74074; or fax: (405) 377-2237; or e-mail: dougdollar@newsforums.com or mike@newsforums.com

Claremore Indian Hospital offers flu vaccine
CLAREMORE — Influenza vaccines will be avail-

Thomas selected as August employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Pearl Thomas, family preservation program coordinator, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's August employee of the month.

She has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for 15 years.

Thomas attended Connors State College and received her degree at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

She and her husband, Velvin, have been married for 40 years. They have one daughter, Patricia, and one son, Randy. They are the grandparents of Andrew and Jennifer.

Thomas is a lifelong member of Honey Creek United Methodist Church. She belongs to the Bear Clan and Cheyaha Tribal Town.

She enjoys cooking, sewing, and crafting.



photo by Gerald Wofford

able beginning in October at Claremore Indian Hospital for those patients that are eligible.

Influenza can be prevented with this safe, effective vaccine.

Yearly influenza vaccination is recommended for: all persons 65 years of age or older; persons greater than six months of age with chronic illness; pregnant women; persons six months to 18 years of age receiving chronic aspirin therapy; household members of high risk persons; and anyone who wishes to reduce likelihood of influenza.

Influenza clinics at Claremore Indian Hospital will be held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning in October and will be available through March 2000.

Travel plaza chosen as business of the year

TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza was chosen as the 1999 Native American Tribal Business of the Year by the Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center.

The tribe was recognized for its success and economic contributions it has made to northeastern Oklahoma.

A.J. Green, business development specialist and procurement technician, presented Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver with the award at the ONABDC



awards reception held at the OSU-Tulsa University auditorium in August.

A slide presentation and narrative of the tribe's operation was given at the awards reception.

The business of the year award is part of ONABDC's annual Minority Business Development MED Week celebration recognizing the successes that Native Americans have achieved.

Redline, Squ Sdi-Yu win festival tournament

OKMULGEE — Team Redline and Squ Sdi-Yu won first place at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Men's and Women's Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament held on August 28.

Due to heavy rains during the annual Festival weekend, the tournament was rescheduled.

Team Redline battled through the loser's bracket to defeat the Norman Travelers twice in the finals. Dean Williams was named tournament most valuable player.

Marshall Jacob Mosquito and David Pascual were named to the all-tournament team. Other players named to the all-tournament team were: Rodney Brown, Jacob Longman, George Mope, Myron Bolin, Anthony Pritchett, and David Beets.

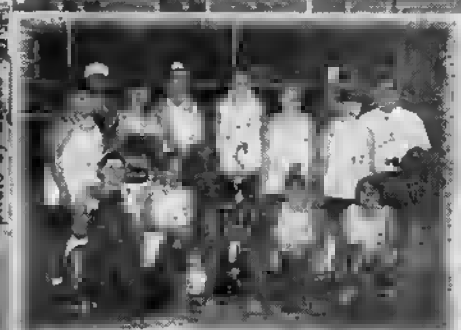
Eleven teams took the field in the women's tournament. Squ Sdi-Yu emerged as the champion. Carla Barnes captured MVP honors of the tournament. Teammates Ashely Medlen, Trica Six, and Tracey Six were selected as all-tournament players. Other players named to the all-tournament team were: Nikki Johnson, Misty Groves, Lise Longman, Roberta Lewis, Debbie Ridge, and Page Baker.

photo by Lucas Taylor



Team Redline of Okmulgee poses for the championship photo.

photo by Lucas Taylor



Squ Sdi-Yu captures first in the women's tournament.

Education

Preston youth graduates from high school

PRESTON — Cody J. Bible graduated from Preston High School on May 20.

He participated in basketball and track.

He plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University this fall.

He is the son of Emmett Bible of Okmulgee. His grandparents are Norma Bible of Preston and M.A. Anquoe of Tulsa.

He is of Creek-Kiowa descent and belongs to the Tiger Clan.

Godley student receives academic awards

GODLEY, Texas — Nine year-old Shanda Raychelle Campbell received many academic awards at the completion of her third grade school year at Godley Elementary.

Campbell received the following awards: a trophy, honor roll for six of six weeks; highest average in science, English, spelling, and social studies; excellence in conduct; and a certificate from the National Science Contest.

She is the daughter of Danny Ray and Cindy Campbell of Godley.

Her maternal grandparents are Travis and Lillie Killingsworth Thomas and Jim and Helen Hart of Checotah.

Her paternal grandfather is the late Dennis Stanley Campbell.



Campbell

Her great-great grandparents are the late Bryan and Naomi Riley Killingsworth and Norman and Lavern Campbell, Checotah.

She is a descendent of the Bear and Racoon clans.

LIBERTY MOUNDS

— Leah Ranae Mosquito, a senior at Liberty High School, has maintained a 4.29 grade point average for the past three years of high school. Among awards she has received are: U.S. National Mathematics Award; National English Merit Award; International Foreign Language Award; and Who's Who Among American High School Students, three consecutive years.

She has been on the superintendent's honor roll throughout middle school and high school. Leah received the Masonic Student of Today award and awards for the highest grade in accounting, American History, German I, math analysis, and English in her junior year.

Mosquito earned first place in an Algebra II scholastic meet during her sophomore year and went to the state tournament of champions at which she also placed first. During her junior year she won first place in trigonometry and second in business math at a scholastic meet.

She served class treasurer and president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also was second baseman for the varsity fastpitch softball and slow pitch softball teams — which each won their districts. She was all-conference in fastpitch and voted Miss



Mosquito

please see **EDUCATION...**, page 6 .

Johnson O'Malley selects first scholarship winners for fall term

OKMULGEE — The Johnson O'Malley Program selected the first \$1,000 scholarship winners for the 1999 fall term.

The eight scholarships were offered to each county within Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdictional boundaries.

This year the Johnson O'Malley Program received 54 applications from the eight county area.

The selection of winners was based on criteria which included: academics; service; formal essay; and recommendations.

The following students, with an average of 3.945 grade point average and a 24.75 SAT score, were the winners and alternates of the \$1,000 scholarships awards:



submitted photo

Former tribal Johnson O'Malley Field Specialist Sandra Peters is pictured with scholarship winner Jason E. Jones of Checotah

Award Winner

Creek County

Travis J. White
Bristow High School

Hughes County

Morgan R. Wilkerson
Holdenville High School

McIntosh County

Jason E. Jones
Checotah High School

Muscogee County

Lyndzi R. Hopkins
Oktaha High School

Okfuskee County

Michael D. Parrish
Paden High School

Okmulgee County

Tre-Robert D. Black
Morris High School

Tulsa County

Erin M. Schmidt
Union High School

Wagoner County

Zachariah O. Lindsey
Wagoner High School

Alternate

Kelly M. Gile
Mannford High School

Samantha J. Larney
Moss High School

Amy K. Paris
Checotah High School

Brent E. Morgan
Oktaha High School

Mindy S. Hill
Okemah High School

Jami G. Fleetwood
Morris High School

Douglas M. Newcomb
Broken Arrow High School

Shelly L. Farmer
Coweta High School

Professionals

Citizen accepts position of vice president

BROKEN ARROW — Jay H. Burgess recently accepted the position of vice president, management information systems, and chief information officer for Hiltis Western Hemisphere.

Burgess graduated from Broken Arrow High School. In 1982 he received a bachelor of business administration-information systems degree from The University of Oklahoma. In 1995 he received his master of arts degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Presently he is working on his doctor of management at the University of Phoenix.

His professional activities include serving on an advisory board for City of Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage.

Jay, his wife, and three children, reside in Broken Arrow. His parents are Woodrow and Rhoda Burgess of Broken Arrow.

Muscogee artist wins best of category

TAHLEQUAH — Tribal sculpturer Sonny Crowels won the best of category in sculpture at Trail of Tears Art Show at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

His sculpture, titled "Inner Spirit," depicted an eagle with an Indian face sculpted in its chest area. It symbolized same spirit in man and animal.

Crowels also won honorable mention in miniatures for "Butterfly Dreams."

Crowels, of Sapulpa, has been sculpting since 1991 and was taught by his brother, Newman Crowels Jr.

He is the son of Nora and the late Newman Crowels.

Citizen retires from hospital after 30 years

CLAREMORE — After providing 30 years of nursing services to Claremore Indian Hospital, tribal citizen Waukomis Chupco Lewis retired in 1994.

Lewis was the first American Indian to graduate in from The University of Oklahoma with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 1962. She was the first Indian nurse in the U.S. Public Health Service, Commissioned Officers Corps, Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service, with the rank of commander.

She is the daughter of Rev. Lee and Helen Chupco and the granddaughter of the late Rev. Billie and Bessie McCoser Palmer, retired in 1994 after providing 30 of nursing services at Claremore Indian Hospital.

In 1991, she was one of the 50 American U.S. PHS Commissioned Corps nurse volunteers to provide health care services for two months in Kuwait working with refugees. She was assigned to tent city near the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Lewis received a Southwest Asia Service Medal and numerous awards during her tour of duty.

Screenplay selected for Sundance workshop

LOS ANGELES — Muscogee citizen Vincent L. Mendoza was selected to attend the Sundance Film Institute workshop for his screenplay, "China Blossom."

please see **CAREERS...**, page 6

Painter dedicates art to Native American veterans

TULSA — Contemporary abstract painter Wanda A. Greene of Bixby has dedicated her exhibition — "Ours Is Not To Question Why, Ours Is But To Do-Or-Die" — to U.S. veterans.

The exhibition, described as "expressive and colorful," was shown at the Living Arts of Tulsa Gallery in June.

"My father, Jimmie Greene, served in the Navy and Army as did many other Native Americans. Back then it was very popular to enlist at a very, very, young age. Today he is 73 years old and has since shared his many service experiences with me. This young man of the Euchee-Muscogee tribe viewed the world from Germany to the Philippines and navigated a wooden sea craft. He saw the raising of the USA flag at Iwo Jima on Mount Suribachi by Ira Hayes and other Marines along with the surrendering of the Japanese held on the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Yokohama Bay.... Dad lived the history we now read about in today's books. This is why I honor all United States veterans through this presentation of my artwork," Greene said.

Special guests were the Vietnam Era Veterans Inter-Tribal Association of the Seminole Chapter of

Oklahoma. They performed maneuvers during the opening reception giving honor to the "unique" exhibition.



submitted photo

Pictured in front of the painting titled, "Ours Is Not To Question Why, Ours Is But To Do-Or-Die," is artist Wanda A. Greene, center, and, left to right, Vietnam Era Veterans Inter-Tribal Association of the Seminole Chapter of Oklahoma members: Michael Logan; Jimmy S. Johnson; Willie Haney; David W. Johnson; and Silas Spencer.

Education

continued from page 5

Softball by her coaches this year.

She is the daughter of Rex and Robbie Mosquito. Her maternal grandparents are John R. and Anna Mae Jones. Her paternal grandparents are Joe and the late Lena Berryhill Mosquito.

Tahlequah citizen participates in OSU program

STILLWATER — Tribal citizen Shelley Patrick, a senior at Tahlequah High School, was among high school girls from across the state who participated in a program at Oklahoma State University designed specifically to introduce young women to career and education opportunities in engineering, architecture, and technology.

Patrick, the daughter of Dr. Phyllis Fife and Don Patrick, attended the Reaching Engineering and Architecture Career Heights (R.E.A.C.H.) program in June. The fourth consecutive installment of the summer academy hosted twenty high school juniors and seniors.



Patrick

The students spent two weeks on the OSU campus exploring basic engineering and architectural principles, including problem formulation and solution, ethics, and team building. Architectural design, mechanical power and technology and six disciplines of engineering-biosystems, chemical, civil, electrical and computer, industrial, and mechanical are introduced to participants throughout a series of hands-on projects.

"We hope to send girls in this program back to their schools with a desire to continue in the development of their math and science skills in preparation for their careers in technical fields," said Dr. Camille DeYoung, assistant professor of industrial engineering and management at OSU and co-director of the program.

The program also introduces students to people who share their interests in the technological fields, according to Suzanne Bilbeisi, OSU associate professor of architecture.

"R.E.A.C.H. participants have a unique opportunity to discuss career oriented topics with female college students, university faculty, and practicing professionals," Bilbeisi, who shares director chores with DeYoung, said "These young women gain a better understanding of what being an engineer, architect, or technologist means."

The program is sponsored by: OSU's College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology; Phillips Petroleum Company; and NASA. Participants in the academy are chosen through a lengthy selection process.

For more information about this program, call (405)744-605.

Students receive of Red Earth awards

OKLAHOMA CITY — Eight area Muscogee students entered the Red Earth National Native American Student Art Competition in June.

The categories were: painting-drawing-graphics; sculpture; cultural items; jewelry; and pottery.

Laura Wilson won second place and \$75 in the division III sculpture category. She is a senior at Morris High School. Wilson also entered a painting.

Dan Wilson won second place and \$75 in the division II sculpture category. He is 13 years old and attends Morris High School. Winning honorable mention in both sculpture and painting in division II was 15 year old Brian Fleetwood. He is in the tenth grade

at Morris High School.

In division-I, 10 year old Aaron Jones entered a basket in the cultural items category and beadwork in the jewelry category. Aaron attends Preston Elementary School. Darren Rock, 11 years old, entered a basket in the cultural items category, a painting, and a piece of pottery. Rock is in the sixth grade at Morris Elementary.

Other entries in the division II category by Morris students include: D. Wilson, painting; Brandee Beaver, color pencil drawing; Jesse Bible, pencil drawing; Jake Roberts, pencil drawing; Jamie Parker, pencil drawing; and Clint Wilson, sculpture. James W. Fife, Dustin High School, entered a beaded bracelet in the jewelry category and entered in the painting category also.

Native American youth from all over the nation compete in this show each year. Red Earth is an annual summer celebration of Native American cultures and traditions held in June.

Jones "male" academy to hold reunion

HARTSHORNE — A reunion of "Jones Male Academy" for alumni that attended up until 1954 will be held Oct. 16 at Jones Academy.

The agenda is as follows: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., registration; noon, lunch; 1 p.m., devotion and recognition of those veterans, alumni, and families; 5:30 p.m., dinner; and 7 p.m., gospel singing.

For more information, call Jimmy Bruner at (580) 298-3136 or Jimmy Frazier at (580) 584-5200.

Careers

continued from page 5

The workshop receives hundreds of entries from across the nation and Canada; only eight entries were selected.

Mendoza attended the workshop in July where he worked with a screenwriter from a major motion picture company for one week. The action-adventure screenplay features fictional Muscogee chief Sam McIntosh as the hero.

He is the son of the late Concho and Martha Mendoza, Tulsa. His maternal grandparents are the late Rev. Newman and Annie McIntosh, Okmulgee.

Man selected to attend Smithsonian seminar

WASHINGTON — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum announced that John Timothy II, cultural resource assistant, was selected to attend the Smithsonian Institution's American Indian Museum Leadership Seminar held in May.

Timothy was one of 15 people chosen nationwide to attend the seminar. The Smithsonian seminar provided Timothy the opportunity to learn more ways a museum can relay to guests the history, culture, and social life of Native Americans in a professional and honest manner.

Timothy assists in preparing written cultural information for students, gives cultural presentations for organizations, provides guided tours of the museum and arranges exhibits at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum. He belongs to Koweta Tribal Town and the Wind Clan. He uses skills and knowledge from his family and mentors to relay cultural information about the five tribes to visitors from all nationalities.

Society

Arrivals

Eco Tasahce Bamett

CLAREMORE — Eco Tasahce Bamett was born April 1 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Roger and Stephanie Barnett of Bristow.

He weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Bamett belongs to the Deer Clan and Ocevpofo Tribal Town and is the son of the Wind Clan and Kyncate Tribal Town. He is the grandson of the Alligator and Tiger clans and Kasety and Apekv tribal towns.

Maternal grandparents are Jo Ann Skaggs of Mescalero, N.M. and Michael and Julia Berryhill of Henryetta. Paternal grandparents are Rachel Bamett and Joseph Bamett, both of Bristow.

Great-grandparents are: Nicey and the late Solomon Wilson, Kyncate area; Thomas and the late Blanche Berryhill, Wilson Community; the late Jim and Lizzie Barnett, Bristow; and the late Drennon and Maybell Skaggs, Stidham.

Tenetke Nizhoni Watson

HOLDENVILLE — Tenetke Nizhoni Watson was born March 23 at Flagstaff Medical Center to Cecil Watson Jr. and Sharon Claw.

She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Bob and Abbie Lamey of Holdenville.

Maternal grandparents are Danny and Rose Claw of Kaibeto, Ariz.

Her Great-grandparents are the late George "Toby" Alexander and Hattie Alexander of Lamar.

She is of the Muscogee and Navajo tribes and is the daughter of the Tiger Clan.



Bamett



Watson

Oklahoma team plays in national tourney at Colorado Springs

The Oklahoma Red Feathers team played in the BCI National Tournament held in July.

They played teams from Arizona, Texas and Arizona. They were also chosen out of their division to play in an exhibition game against a Ft. Worth, Texas team. Carl West of Bristow is the team coach.

submitted photo

The Red Feathers Team pictured, left to right, front row: Michael Curin, Michael West, Michah Little, and Ricky Smith; center row — Farrell Billy, Ethan Bell, Jason Carter, Eric Kelsey, Andrew Lewis, and Chris Holuby; and back row — Andre Gresham and Marcus Whitaker.

Tulsa elders celebrate birthdays, receive recognition from chief

TULSA — A birthday celebration was held on June 12 at Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center. Rev. William Alexander, Eloise Alexander Long, and Maryland Harjo Willie.

They are ages 87, 82, and 85 respectively and all celebrated birthdays during the month of June.

Speakers were: Rev. Jim Alexander; Mary Sue Alexander Peak; Edmond Jacob Alexander; Loretta Pat Kelly; R. Perry Beaver; Rev. David Long Jr.; and Rev. Jerry Bird.

The three were honored by Beaver who presented them with certificates recognizing them as elders of the Muscogee Nation.

Many friends and relatives were present to pay their respects and well wishes.



submitted photo

Pictured, left to right, are: William Alexander; Eloise Long; and Maryland Willie.

Elder celebrates 85th birthday

SEMINOLE — Angel Lowe celebrated his 85th birthday June 5 at Sportman's Lake.

Attending his birthday celebration were: his brother, Rev. John Lowe of Oklahoma City; and two sisters, Lizzie Brooks, of Oklahoma City and Louise Musgrove of Holdenville.

A host of family and friends — including 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren were in attendance.



Lowe

Muscogee youth participates in derby

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Twelve year old Brandon J. Freeman participated in the Super Stock Division of Derby Region IV race held in July.

Each participant must build their own car with some help from his or her parent. Contestants must race the car they build and participate in at least three regional races.

Brandon had partici-



Freeman

pated in the National Regional Derby held in Kansas City for the past three years. In July of 1998 Brandon won fourth place in the stock division in his region. This year he will be racing in region IV which includes: Minnesota; Nebraska; Colorado; Kansas; and Missouri.

Freeman's father also coaches him in his favorite sport which is basketball.

He is the son of Lee and Bev Freeman of Overland Park.

His grandparents are Robert Freeman of Okmulgee and Al and Hepsey Berryhill Ray of Joplin, Mo.

He is the son of the Alligator Clan and Coweta Tribal Town and a descendant of Red Eagle and Chief Samuel Checote.

Community news

Muscogee elders celebrate summer birthdays

MUSKOGEE — Several Muscogee Indian Community Senior Action Group members celebrated birthdays during the summer.

Members with birthdays in July were Adelle Wapaha and Jean Cole. Those with birthdays in August were: Ann Luellen and Louise Harjo; Rev. Lee Chupeo; and Harley Little.

Lowes celebrate fourth of July weekend

BRYANT — The Lowe family celebrated their fourth of July holiday at the home of John Lowe on July 5.

Those family members who attended were: John J. Lowe, Jenna Lowe and Jaelene Lowe-Tiger of Okemah; Kara Lowe, Jerome Underwood and Kadyne Lowe-Underwood of Bristow; Jared, Stacy, BreAnne, Nicholas, and Alyssa Lowe from Wichita, Kan.; Tony Lowe, Marvin, Sharon, Marsha, Shannon Lowe and Silas Mitchell of Bryant; Brenda, Jessica and Kelly Lowe and Kalil Lewis of Dustin; Timmy, Regina, Alicia, and Brandi Lowe of Mounds; Tawnya Lowe, Antonio Fisher, Ty Juan and TyJuan Boyles Jr., Katrina Lowe, Kayla Prickett and Rodney Josie of Okmulgee; Rachael Lowe, Monique, Kassey and Erika Harjo, Delana Bear, and David and Danae Bible of Glenpool.

Visitors in attendance were: Tochee and Billie Wind of Weleetka; Paula Mitchell of Okmulgee; and Christopher and Katie Harjo of Henryetta.



Obituaries-religion

OSCAR BELCHER

EUFULA — Funeral services for Oscar Lee Belcher were held Aug. 5 at Gregg Chapel with Rev. Birdcreek Phillips officiating.

He was born Oct. 17, 1925 in Eufaula to Sonny and Sallie Hill Belcher. He died July 31 at Norman Regional Hospital.

Belcher was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired as an ironworker with Local 48 in Oklahoma City. He married Hattie Carroll in 1967. He was a member of the Eufaula Veterans of Foreign Wars 8798 and was of the Baptist faith.

Belcher was preceded in death by: his parents; son, Oscar Lee "BG" Jr.; and two sisters, Martha Cummings and Bessie Belcher.

He is survived by: his wife of the home; two daughters, Joan Belcher of Tulsa and Carol Walton of Del City; two brothers, Frank Belcher of Tulsa and Jack Belcher of Eufaula; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Interment was at the Charles Cemetery.

JACK MORRISON

ORLANDO, Fla. — Funeral services for Jack E. Morrison Sr. were held June 9 at Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home, Ivanhoe Chapel.

He was born Sept. 7, 1927 in Wetumka to Stan Watie and Emma L. Morrison. He died June 5 in Orlando.

He was a World War II veteran and a career aerospace engineer with Lockheed Martin. He was the recipient of numerous distinguished service awards including one for his ground-breaking work on a patented welding process that improved performance the of the cardio-pacemaker.

Morrison was united in marriage to Barbara E. Fiezl in 1948.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Manny G. and Julia H. Morrison, and his parents.

He is survived by: his wife, Barbara; sons, Barton G. of Woodbridge, Va. and Jack E. of Gainesville, Fla.; sister, Juanita Morrison Sacco of Niceville, Fla.; one grandson, Bradley Morrison; and niece, Linda Franzel of San Antonio, Texas.

Interment was at Chapel Hill Cemetery.

MABLE WESLEY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Funeral services for Mable Wesley were held June 28 at Techapuchee Church with Rev. Billy Joe Harjo officiating.

Wake services were held June 27 at Bill Merritt South Chapel.

Wesley was born July 28, 1925 in Holdenville to Milton and Ella Yahola Long. She died June 25 in Oklahoma City.

She was a homemaker and resident of the Oklahoma City area for over 45 years. She was a member of Salt Creek United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; husband, Tillier Wesley; and sister, Florence McGirt.

Wesley is survived by: three sons, Tillier Wesley Jr. of Weatherford, Texas, Roscoe Davis and Randy Wesley, both of Oklahoma City; five daughters, Janice Tom, Gladys Pearman, Freda Leaf, Loretta Webster,

and Paula Wesley, all of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Judy Thlocco of Wewoka and Wisey Sandy of Castle; 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Matthew Tom; Jerry McGirt; Micah Wesley; Steven Wesley; Zachariah Tom; Shawn Jeffries; and Christopher Webster.

Interment was at the Fixico Yahola Cemetery.

Gratitude

We would like to express special appreciation to the following: Bernadine Dowdy; George Miller; Jimmy Alexander; Bill Alexander; John Lowe; George Doyle; Leroy McDermott; Dan Jones; and Jerry Walker. Their words and support during the wake and funeral service for our loved one will always be remembered.

We would like to thank: everyone who sent flowers, cards, and donations; the members of Haikey Chapel for the food preparation, service, and fellowship; Sunrise Ross, for her tireless planning and coordination efforts; the tribal lighthouse police for providing a safe escort; Jack and Carol Shelby of Bixby Funeral Home; and the Muscogee Nation for its assistance.

Geronimo Alexander Family

We would like to acknowledge all those who called, sent flowers and cards and especially those who came to visit, sing, and pray for him while he was still with us.

We would like to thank the following: Morris Indian Church Pastor Judson Deere and its members; Salt Creek United Methodist Church Pastor Jackie Jackson and its members; Honey Creek United Methodist Church members Rueben and Peggy Chalakee, Mary Sunny, and Pearl Thomas; Tallahassee Methodist Church Pastor Sammy Chupco and member Alfred Berryhill; Rusty Powell; Rev. Harry Long; George Miller; Chuck McHenry Jr.; Apekv Ceremonial Ground members who helped lay him to rest and the women who brought food, cooked, and served the family and guests — Janet Taylor, Emma Jacobs, Phyllis Warrington, Nora Factor, Sally Factor, Linda Buckley, Linda Lowe, Betsy Taryole, Stephanie Taylor, Shelly Crow, Julie Saunders, and community members.

Special thanks is extended to: National Council staff Ruthie Burgess, Suzanne McIntosh, and Lisa Deere — who were so kind in assisting; Roger Barnett — who was always there to assist with matters when the family could not. Thomas was much more than a brother to us, he was our spiritual leader, advisor, comforter, and strength and now he is with our beloved mother. When "Sonny" left us he left a big void in our hearts that only God can heal.

Thomas Berryhill Family

Emmanuel and I would like to say mvto to my family and friends for being there during the loss of our baby boy.

Mvto to those who sent flowers, food, cards, and the baby quilt. God bless you.

Chebon Fry Family

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and concern during the recent death of our loved one.

We appreciated the visits, flowers, telephone calls, cards, and prayers during this difficult time.

We thank Robert Simons Funeral home for their services. Special thanks is extended to Revs. Robert Washington and Judson Deere for officiating and their comforting words. It would be impossible to thank everyone, but please know that every word, every touch, and every kind of expression comforted and helped all of us through the loss of our mother.

Minnie Stand Family

Election

continued from page one

Okfuskee District, Seat A cont.

Nancy S. West Watson — 171

Wallace Gambler — 35

Seat B:

*Bruce Smith — 202

*H. Mae Jackson — 178

Chas. R. Coleman — 83

Seat C:

Billy S. Fife — 272

Sandra Golden — 192

Okmulgee District

Seat A: David Lewis

Seat B:

Keeper J. Johnson — 676

Willie B. Murphy — 111

Seat C:

*Anderson Hale — 288

*Charley L. LaSarge — 278

Garry E. Berryhill — 228

Seat D:

*Sandra Peters — 355

*Fred Jones — 309

Dorald Washington — 127

Seat E:

David D. Nichols — 501

Peggy Lyda — 303

Tukvptce District

Seat A: Dwayne Lowe

Seat B:

James R. McGirt — 284

Phillip S. Yargee — 206

Seat C:

Nathan Buck — 370

David Siah Yargee — 137

Tulsa District

Seat A: Larry S. Bible

Seat B:

Mary Sue Peak — 326

Ronald A. Cleghom — 313

Seat C: Earl W. King

Seat D:

Robert L. Hufft — 373

Gloria Factor Lowe — 264

Seat E: Jesse F. Kelley

Wagoner District

Seat A: Richard Berryhill

Seat B:

Barbara Gillespie — 119

Delores J. Perryman Hamilton — 102



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Tribe celebrates Indian heritage month with Muscogee Film Festival

TULSA — The second Muscogee Film Festival, a cooperative event of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department and Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, is being held Nov. 11 through 13 at the OSU-Tulsa Auditorium, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

The festival will begin with a traditional Maskoke dinner at 6 p.m., Nov. 11. Following the dinner, Director Millie Ketcheshawno will introduce her documentary, "We hold the Rock," which focuses on the Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969.

Highlights from the festival include: Muscogee Film Festival Native American Visual Arts Education Day with the introduction of "Tecumseh" by Lead Actor Curtis Zunigha; Director Wes Studi's introduction of his independent short film,



Valentina Lopez Firewalks in a scene from Wes Studi's independent film, "Bonnie Looksaway's Iron Art Wagon."

"Bonnie Looksaway's Iron Art Wagon;" Tamara Bell's introduction of her short film, "The Hunt;" and Filmmaker Richard Whitman's discussion of his short video documentaries, followed by screenings.

"Unfortunately, audiences in Oklahoma rarely have the opportunity to view Native American-produced films. With November being designated as National Native American Indian Heritage Month, as well as Nov. 15 having been officially recognized as Oklahoma Native American Day in the State of Oklahoma, it certainly is timely and appropriate to expose Oklahomans to good, Native American-produced films," Gerald Wofford, festival coordinator, said.

The Muscogee Film Festival agenda is:

Thur., Nov. 11

- 6 p.m. — traditional Maskoke dinner of: *sakonepke*; red beans; frybread; grape dumplings; and *oesofke*
- 7:30 p.m. — presentation of Muscogee Nation Film and Video Competition awards followed by the introduction and screening of Millie Ketcheshawno's "We

First tribal citizen gets home through program

Muscogee Nation first tribe to receive grant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the first recognized tribal government to be awarded a Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 grant to provide af-

- rehabilitation of privately-individually owned homes;
- construction of new homes;
- acquisition (purchasing of existing homes);
- home mortgage assistance; and



photos by Lucas Taylor
Left, Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver presents Nora Factor with the keys to her new pre-manufactured home.

Below, Factor, and her daughter, Sallie, inspect the appliances in her kitchen.



fordable housing and rehabilitation services for its citizens. The grant, in the amount of \$16 million, will be appropriated annually to the tribal housing authority to assist low to moderate income families.

Prior to receiving the NAHASDA grant, the only services offered by the housing authority was new construction and housing rehabilitation of mutual help homes under management.

The NAHASDA grant provides funding for each of the following programs:

- rehabilitation of mutual help homes;

- rental assistance.

Muscogee tribal citizens that would like more information may contact the Creek Nation Housing Authority at (918) 756-8504 or 1 (800) 259-5050.

Hold the Rock," (1998, 22 min.)

Fri., Nov. 12

Muscogee Film Festival Native American Visual Arts Education Day

- 10 a.m. — introduction of "Tecumseh" (1997, 56 min.) by lead actor Curtis Zunigha

Evening session

- 6 p.m. — Director Wes Studi's introduction of his independent short film, "Bonnie Looksaway's Iron Art Wagon," (1997, 35 min.)
- 7 p.m. — "Storyteller," (1998, 14 min.)
- 7:30 p.m. — "In The Blue Ground," (1997, 94 min.)

Sat., Nov. 13

Afternoon session

- 1 p.m. — "Today Is A Good Day: Remembering Chief Dan George," (1997, 44 min.)
 - 2 p.m. — Director Tamara Bell introduces her short film, "The Hunt," (1997, 10 min.)
 - 2:10 p.m. — "He Who Dreams: Michael Greyeyes on The Powwow Trail," (1997, 53 min.), courtesy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- Evening session
- 6 p.m. — Filmmaker Richard Whitman's discus

please see **FESTIVAL...**, page 5

Letters to the editor

Health forum member offers gratitude

Editor:

Thank you to all who have planned, attended and educated women in Okmulgee county through "The Women's Health Forum."

The committee was extremely pleased with the panel format of this year's forum which enabled the audience to participate and ask specific questions relevant to their medical needs. The chairpersons for the forum were: Brenda Miller; Carolyn Torix; Hazel Morris; Kelly Ogg; and Cindy Hoover — they all should be applauded for a job well done. We wish to thank Bill Martin for his assistance as well as all of those serving on the various committees.

A big thanks to those who sponsored this years forum: Okmulgee Memorial Hospital; American Cancer Society; Okmulgee County Health Department; Oklahoma State University Extension Center; Oklahoma State Department of Health; Family and Community Education; Business and Professional Women; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; OSU-Okmulgee Visual Communications; Okmulgee County Medical Alliance; Henryetta Medical Center Auxiliary; Dr. Walter E. Baumann; Miss Black Okmulgee Scholarship Pageant Committee; Upjohn pharmaceuticals; and Baer pharmaceuticals. Without the cooperation and support of the *Okmulgee Daily Times*, *Henryetta Free-Lance*, *Morris News*, *The Muscogee Nation News*, *Okemah News Leader*, and radio station KOKL we would not have been able to publicize the message of the forum to the women throughout the entire county.

We are especially grateful to panel members for the expertise and willingness to share time from their full schedules. These included: Dr. Y.F. Behalak, obstetrician-gynecologist; Shelly Crow, community clinical nurse specialist; Phyllis Flaugh, registered nurse; Ann Phillips, Hope Program Unit; Johnnie Brausell, nurse practitioner; and JoAnn Downs, former radio station K95 celebrity.

On behalf of the forum committee I thank everyone who assisted us in any way to make the 1999 Women's Health Forum such a success. Wishing you a healthy year.

Lynette Baumann, publicity chair

Candidate thanks voters for support

Editor:

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your support and votes during the primary election for principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Thanks to all of you who expressed faith in me; I look forward to the December 4th general election. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated. *Mvto*.
Kenneth L. Childers, Glenpool

Editor's note: Kenneth L. Childers is in the Dec. 4 runoff for the office of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief.

Leaders, citizens need to reexamine history

Editor:

To borrow President John F. Kennedy's famous statement I would like to say something for we Creeks to think on — "Ask not what your tribe can do for you, ask what you can do for your tribe."

It seems to me that some of our leaders and elected

officials are self-seeking and opportunistic. There does not seem to be any real concern where Muscogee Nation will be five or 10 years down the road — as I've not seen any viable goals or objectives set for us.

We also have too many people on our rolls whom are not, in essence, Muscogee. Our tribe is becoming so diffused, even those of us who are recognized as Indian are becoming confused as to who we are. We Indians must live in two different worlds and we become more entangled in the non-Indian world. When this happens I feel we are betraying our ancestors who suffered greatly during their marches to Indian Territory and endured much to retain Creek identity. We must be grateful to the ceremonial grounds people for the saving of our culture.

Our leaders and elected officials need to reexamine our history and learn once again what made the Muscogee Nation so great.

Jorene Coker, Preston

Studio executive thanked for dance recordings

Editor:

We would like to say *mvto* Tony Isaacs of Indian House Recording Studio for giving us the gift of music and song of our Muscogee stomp dances through his recordings since 1965.

Tony has preserved the songs of those before us — most of whom are elders who are still leading and shaking shells and dancing in their hearts — some have passed on, but still live in our children and grandchildren helping to carry this tradition into the new millennium. We know a lot of people who have learned the old songs or have learned to lead from the tapes of Indian House.

It was a pleasure working with him on the most recent recording [July 18, 1999] and to be part of something that, at one time, our family only listened to while living away from the traditional life. Whether it was listening on headphones or in the car while driving in Dallas rush hour traffic, awaiting the ferry in Seattle, riding the metro in D.C., or on a ship overseas — we could imagine the smell of the wood burning, the warmth of the fire, the feel of being right there at home. It reminded us of where we grew up, where we came from, no matter how many hundreds or thousands of miles away we were at that moment.

It's near Y2K and we're still stomping!

Alexis Bible-Crosley, Bristow

Ruth Bible, Okemah

Joe Sulphur Jr., Kansas City, Mo. and

Robyn Sulphur-York, Germantown, M.D.

Candidate appreciates election votes

Editor:

I would like to thank all Creek citizens who supported me in the primary election and also those who took time to vote for any candidate.

Lets exercise our right to select the tribal leaders we think are best. I need your vote Dec. 4 in the general election.

Also, thanks to the many people who called to remind me that the ball fields must remain part of the omnplex. *Mvto*.

A.D. Ellis, Twin Hills

Editor's note: A.D. Ellis is in the Dec. 4 runoff for the office of Muscogee Nation Second Chief.

Citizen wants to contact mother

Editor:

I am tribal citizen seeking information on my mother, Pauline Frye, also a tribal citizen.

I would like to let her know that I love and miss her very much and that she has one granddaughter and another one due in December.

Anyone with information on my mother may write me at: P.O. Box 1623, Cherokee, N.C., 28719

Sharon Frye, Cherokee, N.C.

Woman grateful for child custody assistance

Editor:

I made a trip with my family to Madison, Wis., for a hearing regarding my great-granddaughter. We were granted custody of her returned to Oklahoma where she lives with her father in Tulsa. I could not have done this without the help of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The courts in Wisconsin made it difficult for me, but the Muscogee Nation stayed on top of it all. I want to say many thanks to those in children and family services. I would like to especially thank Debra Gee, she stayed on top of everything and now Dezi is with her family who love her very much.

Naomi Miles Irons, Tulsa

please see **LETTERS...**, page 8

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanle Berryhill, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Confederated Maskoke peoples hold on to remnants of traditional religion

by Gerald Wofford

As we find ourselves closer to the end of the year — as well as the millennium and century — many Muscogee (Creek) people certainly deserve to have the spotlight shown upon them. They should be commended for their perseverance, their commitment to keep their tribe together, their culture, and way of life.

We look, this month, not at a person, singular event, or accomplishment, but at a group. This group of people are still maintaining a historical part of their culture, the confederated Maskokvlke ceremonial ground members.

Perhaps their commitment to keep their culture alive is what motivates this select group to come together during the summer days and evenings to take medicine, shake shells, and dance until the early morning hours. Perhaps its just a stubborn will to hold on to an old and traditional way of life that may some day be no more. Whatever the reason, it has been the Maskoke that have kept a stronger hold on the ceremonial grounds than the other four tribes that make up the "Five Civilized Tribes." Today, there exists 15 active, original ceremonial grounds within Muscogee Territory. The Cherokee have two grounds — Stokes and Redbird Smith. The Seminole have one — Gar Creek, while the Choctaw and Chickasaw do not have active, original ceremonial grounds. This may not be shocking to anyone, unless you consider that at one time each tribe had several ceremonial grounds functioning.

A member of one of one tribal ceremonial grounds, who wished to remain anonymous, tells why he thinks the Maskoke have been more successful in maintaining a greater number of ceremonial grounds.

"It could have been the amount of medicine people they [Maskokvlke] had, because even back in the southeast they had enough medicine men to branch off from one ground and start another one.... Like in Hickory Ground's case, they consider Nuyaka ground, Okfuskee ground, Cedar Creek, or the New Tulsa ground, as being the daughter towns of Hickory Ground....within Hickory Ground...they had enough men in there with the knowledge of medicine, plus they had people in there that could be leaders as mekkos, or warriors, or the chief warriors. Because of that, maybe that's why they managed to keep on going."

To witness and experience a ceremonial event, such as the Green Corn Ceremony, is truly a moment to remember. One cannot help but feel tribal history pul-

sating through each song and dance, but why was their ever a need for ceremonial grounds in the first place?

"First of all, the Creator gave the Indians some things to work with and the first thing they were given was the fire, and the medicines, and the songs, and the herbs. They were given these things...and the Creator said 'I'm giving you [medicine]...when I give you these things and put them in your hand, this is the way you are going to take care of your people.' Because of diseases — some here and some brought by the Europeans, [the Creator provided medicine] to take care of [the] people.

In other words, it was kind of like saying this is your way of religion at that time. 'When I leave these with you and when I come back again, you will be prepared to go the next level or to another place.'"

So it was the medicine that was the first factor in establishing ceremonial grounds. So when did the shell-shaking or stompdancing come along?

"Really, the stompdances, they came about later...during the earlier times, the medicine was taken at night during the different moon cycles, such as the new moon, and they needed some kind of activity to keep them awake because the medicine had to be stayed up, had to be kind of watched over during the night.... They stayed up with it all night, but then they

started thinking, 'we need something — maybe a dance to keep us awake — to stay up with the medicine.' The way I've heard it, that's how the stompdance come about...."

Over the years, the ceremonial people of the tribe have not always been embraced by others. They have been the object of protests by religious groups and even by fellow tribal members. At one time adversaries' rallying cry was that the traditional practices were archaic and no longer necessary. Protesters have even gone to the extreme — labeling the stompdances as devil or fire worship. However, this was not always the case.

"In the earlier times, there was a tendency not to let some of the citizens get involved with Christianity — there was an attempt made by the traditionalists [to prevent Christian activity.] But as time went on,

especially in the early 30s and 40s, it was accepted that you could [participate in] both practices. In other words, you could go to the stompdance and maybe go to church...the following morning.... That was much pretty much accepted in those times.... But today, in

the Christian world, we don't have people like we did years ago. It's because...parents would tell their kids... 'this kind of practice isn't for you.' In other words, this kind of stuff is bad or evil in some way. But yet, their parents — even though they say these things — they do belong to a sacred fire.... In the modern times, when they look at the fire, 'they're worshipping the fire' — that's the way the young people preach today in some of these churches and that shouldn't be. [It is because of] lack of knowledge from the younger generation as parents, lack of knowledge in reference to the traditions which wasn't passed on to them by their parents."

Other factors also played a role in the lack of knowledge — such

as the boarding schools and government work relocation programs. Relocation programs sent Native Americans to other states or locations with hopes of finding a good jobs, but in reality the program was designed for their absorption into mainstream America.

The ceremonial grounds have survived the odds, yet modernization affects everything, including this traditional rite. As we prepare to enter the year 2000 and a new century, this person gives their view on the future of Maskokvlke ceremonial grounds.

"Due to lack of...language speaking Creeks...I don't expect the grounds to be in place — maybe twenty years, maybe less than that. Do not impose your culture on another, such as the Europeans have...that has been a major reason why we are losing our language. The dances, they probably won't have any ceremonial medicine rites....

I'd say within the next ten years, my belief is that they will be commercialized like the pow wows.... I feel like we've been caught up in a dominant society too much and in some ways [use] the stompdance [to] benefit.... Purists believe that those who run hamburger and pop stands at the grounds — as well as indoor stompdances during the winter — make money off the ground's name, compromising its integrity.

"Some of the things the elders said...they prophesied that you'll have what I call the plastic medicine men popping up anywhere. In the Nation...I've seen that trend. Self-proclaimed medicine people or medicine men. They prophesied that would happen — [self-proclamations by] people you never heard of or people you knew."

Many may agree with these statements, others may not. In any case, if the demise of the confederated Maskokvlke ceremonial grounds is certain, this may be the last full century to have experienced and cherished the Maskoke religion in a way reminiscent of its pure form.



photo by Stephanie Barnett
Maskokvlke ceremonial ground
leaders at the 1990 Council Oak
Tree Ceremony in Tulsa

Confederated Maskokvlke tribal towns

Alabama
Arbeka
Duck Creek
Fish Pond
Greenleaf
Hickory Ground
Hillabee
Nuyaka
New Tulsa
Okfuskee
Peach Ground
Polecat
Sand Creek
Tallahassee
Tallahassee Wakokaye
Weogufke

Editor's note: Confederated Maskokvlke towns were made up of groups such as the Alabama, Hitchite, and Choctaw — as well as entirely different stock — the Yuchi. This list does not categorize these towns as Maskoke, but only as confederated towns located within tribal boundaries.

Programs-notice

Office of child care to have open house

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care is holding an open house Nov. 5 in the old dental office.

The public is invited to attend and experience the huge selection of learning materials, games, toys, and much more. There is no cost and those attending will receive items to take home.

For more information contact the office of child care at (918) 758-1467.

Law enforcement initiative gives tribe grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Justice's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative awards the Muscogee (Creek) Nation a \$93,000 grant.

The grant is part of the \$89 million allocated to tribal communities to hire, equip and train law enforcement officers and to build new jails and detention facilities in Indian territory.

The Justice and Interior Departments worked with tribal governments to develop the initiative.

The comprehensive initiative is aimed at improving criminal justice services and reducing the rate of crime among the 1.4 million Native Americans living on or near Indian lands.

According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, male and female American Indians experience violent crimes at higher rates than people of other races and are more likely to experience interracial violence.

Tribal elders attend Indian elders conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Thirty-four Mvskoke elders attended the American Indian Elders Conference, "Following Their Ways," in August.

The elders attended workshops, viewed exhibits, and met other tribal participants from Oklahoma. Participants from the Muscogee Nation represented Creek, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Hughes, and McIntosh counties.

Tribes were requested to submit nominations from their respective tribes for recognition and to honor the tribal elder. Rev. Harry Long was honored as the Mvskoke elder.



Long

The National Council appropriated funds for the trip. Second Chief George Almerigi, Muskogee representative Harley Little, and Okmulgee representative A.D. Ellis attended the conference with the elders.

Two diabetic groups visit wellness center

HOLDENVILLE — Senior citizens diabetic groups from Holdenville and Okmulgee visited the Zuni Wellness Center.

While at the center, the groups were shown how to make bread and corn soup. The groups also visited the Pueblo Culture Center, which included a gift shop

Hicks selected as September employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Curtis Hicks, tribal affairs director, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's September employee of the month.

Hicks' duties consist of providing administrative support and direction to the management of the divisions of tribal affairs' programs ensuring quality service is being provided to the citizens of the Muscogee Nation.

He graduated from Mason Public School. He attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah earning a bachelor of science degree in secondary education and a master's degree in public school administration.

He has one daughter, Kara, and one son, Eric, both of Lawrence. He enjoys spending time with his children during the weekends.

Hicks has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for eight years.



photo by Lucas Taylor

and museum, and the senior citizen nutrition center. While at the Pueblo center, a dancing group from Oklahoma entertained the groups.

Those attending were: Ruben Kinney; Bunny Carpicher; Johnnie Mae Kalinch; Leah Petsemoie; Eileen Hobia; Esther Harjo; Christine Wolf; Sue Ann Davis; Betty Gray; Mary Powell; Leta; Mary Harjo Gibson; Cynthia Coachman; Sandra Heath; Shirley Almerigi; and Bob Petsemoie.

The trip was made possible by the National Council and the Okmulgee Community Center.

Applied Intelligence Group seeks professionals

EDMOND — Applied Intelligence Group, a division of the Netplex Group, is seeking 250 technical professionals, including strategists, application developers, designers, and systems architects, over the next two years.

College graduates or soon to be graduates of a university or technical college are asked to provide name, address, and how to be contacted to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Economic Development office. The positions are high paying career jobs.

For more information contact: Steve Bruner, Economic Development Coordinator, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or fax (918) 756-2911; or e-mail chief4@ocevnet.org.

Oklahoma Women Veterans sponsor to powwow

LAWTON — Oklahoma Women Veterans is sponsoring a National Veteran's Honor Powwow on Nov. 5 through 7 at the Great Plains Coliseum to honor all those who served.

The honor dance will be held in conjunction with the National State Women Veteran Coordinator's Conference on Nov. 4 through 7.

The event will feature dance competitions, arts and crafts booths, and special activities. All military and veteran organizational color guards are invited to participate.

Gourd dance for Rueben Harjo family

STROUD — A benefit gourd dance for the Rueben Harjo family will be held on Nov. 6 at the Sac and Fox Community Building five miles south of Stroud.

The dance will begin at 2 p.m. Supper is scheduled

to be served at 5 p.m.

The family of Carl Butler will host the gourd dance on behalf of the Harjo family. The headstaff for the dance are: commander Melvin Stevens and the Vietnam Veteran Honor Color Guard of Weatherford, co-host; William Howell of Pawnee, master of ceremonies; Willard Walker of Norman, head singer; Claude Caddo of Claremore, head gourd dancer; and Bradley Littlejohn of Cushing, arena director.

Other activities during the dance include concessions, cake walk, and raffles.

Native American job fair to be held

TULSA — The Oklahoma Indian Times is holding a Native American Job Fair on Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tulsa Convention Center with a new national outreach of Native American applicants and corporate recruiters.

Over 60 companies are expected to attend who are seeking to hire Native American applicants of all job entry levels and ages.

The job fair, fifth in a line of successful job fairs held in Oklahoma, will be extended through Oklahoma Indian Times' websites in the U.S. which receives over 120,000 hits per month.

The site, www.okit.com, currently has information for companies and organizations on how to participate in recruiting on the website or directly at the job fair. The website also has information for applicants who cannot attend the job fair in person but would like to send their resume to be distributed to all participating recruiters free of charge.

The resumes collected will be sorted by job description and by education information to be put in a book format and given to each participating corporation, government organization, and tribal business who is seeking to hire at no charge to the applicant. Submit resume to: Oklahoma Indian Times Resumes, P.O. Box 730, Tulsa, OK 74101; or fax at (918) 438-6545; or e-mail editor@okit.com.

Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop to present play

TULSA — The Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop will present "Evening at the Warbonnet" on Nov. 11

Programs-notices

Actors

continued from page five
through 14 at 8 p.m. at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

"Evening at the Warbonnet," a play of revelations, is set in an Indian bar, ran by two mysterious bartenders. In the course of a suspense-laden evening, four characters are obliged to face their past and unburden themselves of their secrets.

Guest artist, Elaine Miles, will join the TIAW ensemble as one of the bartenders. Of Nez Perce/Cayuga ancestry, Miles is a popular television and screen personality. She is best known for her role as Dr. Fleishman's secretary in "Northern Exposure" and her appearance in the recent smash hit, "Smoke Signals."

General admission tickets for the play will be available after Oct. 31. For more information call (918) 836-4617.



Miles

Women wants to baby-sit in Bixby area

BIXBY — Jeannie Phillips, mother of three, is seeking to baby-sit in the Bixby area. She will transport children to and from school.

For more information call 366-0325.

Festival

continued from page 1

sion of his short video documentaries, "Resonances" (1998-99 — work in progress, 4 min.); "Carriers of the Light" (1995, 13 min.); and "Parole D'Humanite" (1996, 30 min.)

• 7 p.m. — "Rez II," (1997, 60 min.)

• 8:10 p.m. — "Rockin' Warriors," (1997, 56 min.)

Tickets for the traditional Maskoke dinner and screening of Millie Ketcheshawno's "We Hold the Rock" are \$7. Admission for the Nov. 13 afternoon session is \$3; all other sessions cost \$5. The films are not rated, but some are recommended for adult audiences.

All proceeds from the festival benefit the Muscogee Nation Communications Department-administered Native American Film Scholarship fund — an award to be given to an outstanding Native American student pursuing a career in the fields of film and video production. The scholarship application process will begin in January 2000. To get to the OSU-Tulsa campus from Interstate 244, take the Cincinnati/Detroit Avenue exit north and turn north on Detroit Avenue, then east on John Hope Franklin Boulevard.

For more information, contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 756-8700, ext. 220 or e-mail: comm1@ocevnet.org

Muscogee Nation Senior Services selects elders of the month

OKMULGEE — Rev. Willie Gooden and Nora Thomas Nelson were selected as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Elders of the Month.

Gooden, age 89, was born in Calvin on Dec. 12, 1909 to George and Katie McCosar Gooden. He belongs to the Bird Clan and New Tulsa Tribal Town. A member of the Big Cussetah Methodist Church,

Gooden is a retired minister who enjoys fishing. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Okmulgee.



Nelson, age 97, is an original allottee born on Feb. 2, 1902 in the Verdigris bottom to Mack and Sarah Tiger Thomas. She belongs to Springtown United Methodist

Church. She enjoys cooking and she sewing on her computerized sewing machine.



Children from Muscogee Nation Okmulgee Child Development Center sing "Jesus Loves Me" in Maskoke language. Pictured, left to right, front: Miltona Denny, teacher; Morgan Pascale; Jesse Bear; Dalton Longan; Zachary Harnden; Mariah Longan; and Byjou Vaughn; Lesley Harjo; back — Eco and Roger Barnett and Sheila Harjo.

Attending the Council Oak Tree commemoration were: front, Little Miss Mvskoke Nation Division II Kristen Frye and back, The University of Oklahoma American Indian Student Social Work Association Princess Lucinda Eskamire and Little Miss Mvskoke Nation Division III Megan Slayton



photos by Stephanie Barnett

Citizens gearing up for performance in stage production

TULSA — Tribal citizens, Micah McDermott of Glenpool and Timmy Harjochee of Mason, will appear in the stage production of "Black Elk Speaks," starring Wes Studi—star of "Dances with Wolves," "Geronimo," "Deep Rising," and "Mystery Man"—on Nov. 5 through 7 at the Brady Theatre.

The production, sponsored by Oklahoma Indian Theatre and Dance Company, Seminole Tribe of Florida, The Auto Collection, and Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce, will also star Larry Sellers, star of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

McDermott is the son of Sue and Leroy McDermott. Harjochee is the son of Amos and Juanita Harjochee of Mason.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 and \$10 and can be reserved by phoning (800) 654-9545. They can be purchased at Rhett and Company located at 3509 S. Peoria.



photo submitted

From left, are actress Casey Camp Horinek, director Bruce King, Larry Sellers, McDermott, and Wes Studi. Harjochee not pictured.

Society

Arrivals

Derek Christopher Hill

Tulsa — Derek Christopher Hill was born June 26 at St. Francis Hospital to Sonny and Jacque Hill of Glenpool.

He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18 one-half inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Melba Williams of Glenpool and Joe Lee Skeeter of Mounds.

Paternal grandparents are Wanda Jean Hill of Sapulpa and Eunice Hill of Okemah.

Great-grandparents are the late Jimmie and Sadie Skeeter of Mounds and the late Gertrude and Riley John of Sapulpa.



Hill

Tristan Terrell Tritt

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Tristan Terrell Tritt was born July 5 at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital to Kimberly Harry and Anthony Tritt.

He weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 one-fourth inches in length.

His maternal grandparents are Joan Harry of Hectorville and Virgil Harry of Tulsa.

His paternal grandparents are MacArthur and Patricia Tritt of Venetie, Alaska.

He has one brother, Anthony Tritt II.



Tritt

Bristow boy celebrates first birthday

BRISTOW — Zachary Joseph Barnett celebrated his first birthday on July 28 at his grandfather's home.

He is the son of Linda Barnett of Bristow.

Those attending were: siblings, Robyn, Matthew, Christopher, and Spencer Bucktrot; his grandparents, Joseph Barnett and Rachel Barnett; great-grandmother, Nicey Wilson; aunts, Francis Hill and Teresa and Stephanie Barnett; uncles, Roger and Clifford Barnett; and cousins, Amanda and Eco Barnett and Jason Hill.



Barnett

Baby celebrates first birthday at aunt's home

BRISTOW — Jason Thomasen Taryole celebrated his first birthday on Sept. 26 at the home of his aunt.

He is the son of Norman Taryole and Anna Tohpi of Bristow.

Those attending were: siblings, Robert, Timmy and Carrie Annie; grandparents, Newman and Lydia Taryole; and aunts, uncles, and cousins, Natalie, Joe, Christian, and Nicholas Hogner, Barbara, Carl, C.J., Brandon, and Michael West, Norma "Shorty" Taryole, Jessica and Krystal Cook, Brandi Taryole, Jay Isham, Larry Tiger, Thelma, Thomas, Tyrone and Kyle Barnett.



Taryole

Okmulgee girl celebrates first birthday

OKMULGEE — Meske Angel Wind celebrated her first birthday on Aug. 10.

She is the daughter of Travis and Martha Wind of Okmulgee.

Her maternal grandparents are Rosemary and Joe Sulphur and Will and Linda Simpson-Harjo.

Her paternal grandparents are Allen and Sue Wind.



Wind

Bigponds celebrated 74 years of marriage

BRISTOW — Lucy and Kessler Bigpond celebrated their 74th anniversary on August 29 with a dinner attended by family and friends.

They were married on Aug. 29, 1925 in Holdenville by a justice of the peace.

Mr. Bigpond, 91, is a lifelong member of Choska United Methodist Church. At 92 years of age, Mrs. Bigpond — originally a member of Weokufgee Baptist Church — has the distinction of being Choska's church mother.

The have four sons, David of Bristow, Ethan of Okmulgee, Kessler of Albuquerque, NM., and Wendell of Sapulpa. A daughter, Cecelia Ann, is deceased.

Mrs. Bigpond belongs to the Deer Clan and is the daughter of Sukey Lasley and Gibson James. Mr. Bigpond belongs to the Wind Clan and is the son of John and Nancy Anderson Bigpond.

Reunion

Loca'pokv Town

TULSA — A reunion and meeting of Loca'pokv Tribal Town members will begin at 11 a.m., Nov. 26 at Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center.

A covered dish dinner will be served from noon to 3 p.m.

A genealogist — who is well acquainted with the Perryman and their relatives — will be available to answer questions from individual families about their

genealogy.

Based on an 1895 tribal roll, descendants of the following Muscogee families may be members of Loca'pokv town: Haikey; Sunday; Tiger; Hodge; Bustler; Chisholm; Gooden; Van Est; Snake; Hosey; Alexander; Johnson; Fife; Leaper; Hooka; Haney; Nail; McIntosh; Childers; Loler; Starr; Tulmarsey; Fixico; Marshall; Bruner; Scaper; Partridge; Perryman; Burgess; Grayson; Hardy; Taylor; Fish; Dampin; and other families not on this lists.

Meeting discussion will include: selection of leaders; a committee to assist with traditional details for funerals; and the assignment of traditional names to its members by a committee representing each clan; accessing federal land cultural use; and obtaining a federal charter.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center is located at 8611 S. Union.

For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list, contact: Attn. Loca'pokv Town Reunion, Robert Trepp, P.O. Box 9853, Tulsa OK 74157-0853

Lasley Family

HANNA — The Lasley Family Reunion will begin at 8 a.m., Nov. 25 at Weokufgee Baptist Church.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish to the Thanksgiving Day dinner; meat will be provided.

The church is located three miles west of Hanna.

Community

Glenpool Creeks schedule holiday dinner

GLENPOOL — Glenpool Creek Indian Community is holding its holiday dinner at 5 p.m., Dec. 11 in the community activity building.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. "Everyone is invited to attend," Jacque Hill, fund-raising and activity committee chair, said.

The activity building is located one-fourth of a mile north 141st Street and U.S. Highway 75.

Muscogee holding fourth ball tournament

MUSCOGEE — The Fourth Annual Muscogee Indian Community Basketball Tournament has been set for Dec. 17 through 19.

The 12 tournament divisions include:

- girls junior high — seventh, eighth; and ninth grades;
- girls senior high — 10th, 11th; and 12th grades;
- boys junior high — seventh, eighth; and ninth grades; and
- boys senior high — 10th, 11th; and 12th grades.

The tournament is limited to eight teams per division with 10 members per team.

All Indian youth who are members of a federally recognized tribe are eligible to participate. Teams may be formed by: tribal towns; chartered communities; youth clubs or councils; ceremonial grounds; Indian churches, etc. Provision of tribal enrollment cards or Certificate Degree of Indian Blood cards are required.

The \$100 entry fee is due Dec. 3.

For more information, call Leon Yahola at: home, (918) 682-9009; work, (918) 687-2291; page, 686-2597; or write, Muscogee Indian Community, P.O. Box 364, Muskogee, OK 74402

Obituaries-religion

JUANITA BALDRIDGE

OKMULGEE — Funeral service for Juanita Ruth Baldrige were held at Crosstown Pentecostal Holiness Church on July 9 with Revs. Dave Long Jr. and C.R. Franklin officiating.

Wake services were held July 8 at the church.

She died July 7 at her home in Okmulgee. She was born May 29, 1946 in Claremore to Dan and Pauline Harjo Morgan.

She was a graduate of Nuyaka high school and attended OCSW Junior College and Northeastern State University. Baldrige was a homemaker and belonged to the Assembly of God faith.

She was preceded in death by her father and one brother, Dan Morgan Jr.

She is survived by: her husband, Bob, of the home in Okmulgee; mother; three sons, Paul and Shawn Baldrige, both of Okmulgee and Steve Baldrige of Branson, Mo.; two brothers, Kenneth Morgan of Morris and Emanuel Morgan of Okmulgee; two sisters, Rachel Thomas and Dinah Mitchell, both of Okmulgee; four grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Okmulgee Cemetery.

ELIZABETH DEERE

EUFULA — Funeral services for Elizabeth Deere were held Aug. 23 at Gregg Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ernest Marshall officiating and Rev. Fred Lindsey officiating assisting.

Wake services were held Aug. 22 at the chapel.

She died Aug. 19 at her home in Eufaula. Deere was born Aug. 27, 1914 to Joseph and Leah Barnett Colbert in McIntosh County.

She retired from hospital work in the linen department and was a homemaker. Deere was a lifelong member of Tuskegee Baptist Church. She was a member of the Eufaula Senior Citizens and the Eufaula Creek Nation Community Foster Parent program for many years.

She is survived by: a stepson, Herman Deere of Tulsa; foster grandchildren, Audrey Barnett of Anadarko, Steve and Dode Barnett of Gardner, Kan., and Terri and Gary Herman of Rogersville, Mo.; two brothers, Charley and Rev. Rudolph Colbert, both of Eufaula; four sisters, Medella Hill of Eufaula, Esther and Claudette Harjo, both of Lawrence, Kan., Josephine Schanandore of Ashland, Wis.; and many relatives.

Pallbearers were: Jomekko Hill, Richmond Colbert, Rev. Cloyd Harjo Jr.; Lincoln Harjo; John Scott Harjo; Gary Colbert; Rev. Randy Colbert; Rev. Belvin Hill and Rev. Allen Colbert.

Honorary pallbearers were: Leonard Sims; Rev. Cloyd Harjo Sr.; Scotty Harjo; Charley Colbert; Rev. Rudolph Colbert; Herman Deere; Dan Drew; Roy Starr; Rev. Sam Barnett; Rev. Morris Barnett; and Dan Barnett.

Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery.

EARL DUNSON

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Earl Dunson were held Sept. 11 at Thlophlocco United Methodist Church with Rev. Jack Davis officiating.

Wake services were held Sept. 10 at the church.

He was born Dec. 29, 1911 in Okfuskee County to Thomas and Susie Walker Dunson. He died Sept. 7.

Dunson graduated from Okemah High School in 1933. He attended Southeastern State College, Durant, where

he played football for two years. He pursued his ministerial studies at Southern Methodist University. Dunson had lived in Glenpool since 1980. He was an avid Okemah High School football fan and enjoyed gardening and spending time with his grandchildren also.

Dunson was preceded in death by: a son, James Earl; a daughter, Blanche; brothers, Frank and Jonas; and sisters, Florence and Lucille.

He is survived by: his wife, Lucille, of the home; two sons, William Dunson of Bixby and Steven Walker of Mounds; four daughters, Loren Lusty of Glenpool, Marion Mitchell and Genese Switch, both of Midwest City, and Beverly Parker of Jenks; one brother, Gene Dunson of Wetumka; three sisters, Agnes Canard and Virginia Webb of Okemah and Kathryn Scott of Martinez, Calif.; 21 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many relatives.

Interment was at Thlophlocco Methodist Cemetery.

LILLIAN LEYBAS

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Lillian Georgia Leybas were held Aug. 10 at Arbeka Baptist Church.

Wake services were held Aug. 9 at the church.

She was born Jan. 17, 1924 in Bryant to Waddie and Bertha Albert. She died Aug. 4 in Henryetta.

Lillian was married to Bennie L. Leybas. She was a homemaker, a member of the Arbeka Baptist Church, and a ladies class leader.

Leybas was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband; two children, Raymond and Ramona Leybas; and two sisters, Joan Albert and Nancy Kaler.

She is survived by: nine children, Bennie Leybas Jr., Waddie, Mike, Johnny, and Kenny Leybas, Daisy Murphree, Shirley McKay, and Bertha Brown, all of Okmulgee, and Daniel Leybas of Oslo, Norway; two brothers, Claudie Fields of Weleetka and Prince Albert of Phoenix, Ariz.; 16 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Kenny Davis; David VanStraten

Jr.; David Durden; John Brown; Jacob Lowe; and Loper Jones.

Honorary pallbearers were: Lawrence West; Wilbert Lowe; Timmie Lowe; Tony Lowe; Rex Watson; and Steve Randall.

Interment was at Arbeka Baptist Cemetery.

Gratitude

We would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for your presence, food, flowers, and donations received during our time of sorrow.

Our thanks could never be enough for the kindness received during the loss of our most beloved father and grandfather, *mvto*.

Barney Leader Family

Religion

Salt Creek Methodist to hold Harvest Bazaar

HOLDENVILLE — Salt Creek United Methodist Church is holding its "Harvest Bazaar" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 13.

Baked goods, handmade quilts, and homemade crafts will be for sale.

Space is available for individuals wanting to sale their homemade items. For more information, call (405) 257-3625 or (405) 379-5825.

The church is holding a revival Nov. 17 through 19, beginning at seven nightly.

The church is located eight miles north of Holdenville on state highway 48 and two miles east.

Tookparfka Baptist church holding revival

CALVIN — Tookparfka Baptist Church is holding a revival Nov. 15 through 19, beginning at seven each night.

The evangelist is Richard Pickup and music will be provided by "Native Gospel Trio."

The church is located five miles south of Homtown on U.S. Highway 75 and three miles east.

TERRY and JUANITA BARNETT

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Terry Wayne and Juanita Kay Hill Barnett were held Aug. 24 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church with Revs. Fred Lindsey and Mark Smith officiating.

Wake services were held Aug. 22 at Schumacher Funeral Home Chapel and Aug. 23 at the church with Revs. George Miller and Truitt Johns officiating.

The couple died Aug. 20 near Bristow. Mrs. Barnett was born Oct. 9, 1958 to Toney Elijah and Irene Simmers Hill. Mr. Barnett was born Dec. 12, 1956 in Talihina to William Barnett and Pauline Wesley.

She had lived in Okfuskee County Okemah all of her life. She was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed playing softball, volleyball, and basketball. He attended Sequoyah High School and had lived in Creek and Okfuskee counties for most of his life. He enjoyed playing softball and volleyball. The couple married on Jan. 17, 1986 in Slick. Both were employed at Kwikset in Bristow.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

She is survived by: six brothers, Billy and Stoney Hill,

both of Okemah, Toby and Dewey Hill, both of Lamar, Louie Hill of Wewoka and J.D. Hill of Tulsa; four sisters, Emma Jones of Slick, Millie and Wanda Hill, both of Okemah, and Christine Hill of Bowlegs; and many relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

He is survived by: his father of Hugo; two sons, David and Travis Barnett; three daughters, Wenona, Tara, and Brenna Barnett of Ponca City; one brother, Calvin Barnett of Bristow; five sisters, Carol Proctor of Bristow, Calett Morris of Colorado, Wilma, Cecilia, and Anora Barnett; six grandchildren, and

many relatives and friends.

Pallbearers for Mrs. Barnett were: Joe Jackson; Mose Lindsey; Robert Coffee; Mike Cone; Mike Hicks; and J.D. Harley.

Pallbearers for Mr. Barnett were: Roger Barnett; Clifford Barnett; Jake Barnett Jr.; Thomas Barnett; Tyrone Barnett; and Raymond Barnett.

Honorary pallbearers were Carl and C.J. West.

Interment was held at Simmer and Hill Cemetery.



Juanita and Terry Barnett

Notice of hearing

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
volume 28, issue 10, October 1999
Cause CD No. 990002109T

Applicant: Glenn Supply Company, Inc.

Relief sought: Pooling

Land covered: The E/2 of Section 21, Township 11 North, Range 15 East; McIntosh County, Oklahoma

Fourth Amended Notice of hearing

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: All persons, owners, producers, operators, purchasers and takers of oil and gas and all other interested persons, particularly in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, and more particularly Charles M. Linn and Patricia A. Linn; Phyllis Carey; Joseph W. Newcomer; Agnes H. Newcomer; Royalty Holding Company; Central United Presbyterian Church; Ruth King Sangsteer, now Anselm; Lucille Deer, now Swartwood; Elmer H. Wahl; Nathan Newcomer Jr.; M.L. McLain; M.W. McLain; Billy Joe Swartwood; J. H. Newcomer; M.M. Fox; Betty Hazen; Emerson R. Newcomer; Martin L. Sullivan; Miriam J. Newcomer; Ethel Carey; Robert Carey; Allen Stover; and, if any of the above-named individuals are deceased, the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, successor trustees and assigns, immediate and remote, of any such deceased person; and, if any of the above-named corporations or companies are no longer in existence, then the unknown successors and assigns of any such corporation or company.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Applicant in this cause is requesting that the Commission grant an order pooling the interests and adjudicating the rights and equities of oil and gas owners in the 320-acre unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 21, Township 11 North, Range 15 East, McIntosh County, for the Bartlesville, Wapanucka, Jefferson, Booch, Hartshome, Upper Atoka, Middle Atoka, Basal Atoka, Cromwell, Union Valley, Hunton, Viola and Wilcox common sources of supply.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Applicant in this cause is requesting the following special relief: Designation of Applicant, or some other party, as operator of the unit we; and, the applicant shall request at the hearing that the order provide that any owner electing an alternative to participation in the initial well drilled thereunder shall be deemed to have relinquished all of its working interests and right to drill in the unit and common source of supply named herein as to such well and any wells drilled subsequent thereto. Further applicant shall propose that the order to issue in this cause provide a method of proposal of subsequent wells and for response to such proposal by owners who elect participate in the initial well.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this cause be set before an Administrative Law Judge for hearing, taking of evidence and reporting to the Commission. This Second Amended Notice is being filed in order to add certain common sources of supply.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this cause will be heard before an Administrative Law Judge on the Initial Hearing Docket at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Eastern Regional Service Office, 440 S. Houston, Tulsa, Oklahoma, at 8:30 a.m. on the

2nd day of November, 1999, and that this notice be published as required by law and the rules of the Commission.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Applicant and interested parties may present testimony by telephone. The cost of the telephonic communication shall be paid by the person or persons requesting its use. Interested parties who wish to participate by telephone shall contact the Applicant or Applicant's Attorney, prior to the hearing date, and provide their name and phone number.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all interested persons may appear and be heard. For further information concerning this action, contact Dennis Baggett, Glenn Supply Company, Inc., P.O. Box 1104, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74101, Telephone: (918) 583-1101; OR J. Fred Gist, Attorney, HALL, ESTILL, HARDWICK, GABLE, GOLDEN, & NELSON, P.C., 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, Telephone 405/553-2828

CORPORATION COMMISSION OF OKLAHOMA

BOB ANTHONY, Chairman

DENISE A. BODE, Vice Chairman

ED APPLE, Commissioner

DONE AND PERFORMED this 6th day of October, 1999

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

CHARLOTTE W. FLANAGAN, Secretary

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
volume 28, issue 10, October 1999
Cause CD No. 990002899T

Applicant: Glenn Supply Company, Inc.

Relief sought: Well Location Exception

Land covered: The E/2 of Section 21, Township 11 North, Range 15 East, McIntosh County, Oklahoma

Second Amended Notice of hearing

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: All persons, owners, producers, operators, purchasers and takers of oil and gas and all other interested persons, particularly in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, and more particularly XAE Corporation.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Application in this cause is requesting that the Commission issue an order granting the Applicant an exception to the well location prescribed by Order No. 429305 and the Order to be issued in Cause CD No. 990002898T for the Bartlesville, Booch, Hartshome, Upper Atoka, Middle Atoka, Basal Atoka (Spiro), Wapanucka, Union Valley, Cromwell, Jefferson, Hunton, Viola and Wilcox common sources of supply underlying the 320-acre unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 21, Township 11 North, Range 15 East, McIntosh County, Oklahoma, so that Applicant may drill, complete and produce a well located 2,077 feet from the south line and 603 feet from the west line of the 320-acre unit comprised of the E/2 of said Section 21; and designating the Applicant or some other party as operator; and further ordering and authorizing said well to produce a full allowable from said common sources of supply, or an allowable as established by the Commission at the time of the hearing. The lands adjacent to the land covered by this Application are as follows: Section 15, 16, 21, 22, 27 and 28, Township 11 North, Range 15 East, McIntosh County, Oklahoma.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this cause be set before an Administrative Law Judge for hearing, taking of evidence and reporting to the Commission.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this cause will be heard before an Administrative Law Judge on the Initial hearing Docket at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Eastern Regional Service Office, 440 S. Houston, Tulsa, Oklahoma, at 8:30 a.m. on the 2nd day of November, 1999, and that this notice be published as required by law and the rules of the Commission.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Applicant and interested parties may present testimony by telephone. The cost telephonic communication shall be paid by the person or persons requesting its use. Interested parties who wish to participate by telephone shall contact the Applicant or Applicant's Attorney, prior to the hearing date, and provide their name and phone number.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all interested persons may appear and be heard. For further information concerning this action, contact, Dennis Baggett, Glenn Supply Company, Inc., P.O. Box 1104, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74101, Telephone: (918) 583-1101; OR J. Fred Gist, OBA #3390, Attorney, HALL, ESTILL, HARDWICK, GABLE, GOLDEN & NELSON, P.C., 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, Telephone: (405) 553-2828

CORPORATION COMMISSION OF OKLAHOMA

BOB ANTHONY, Chairman

DENISE A. BODE, Vice Chairman

ED APPLE, Commissioner

DONE AND PERFORMED this 6th day of

October, 1999

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

CHARLOTTE W. FLANAGAN, Secretary

Letters

continued from page 2

New representative thanks Tulsa-area voters
Editor:

As a newly-elected Tulsa District representative, I would like to express my appreciation for the support and confidence shown to me by the Creek people of Tulsa and Glenpool and absentee voters.

I pledge to be a representative you will be proud of. *Mvto.*

Mary Sue Alexander Peak, Tulsa

Church appreciates having drinkable water

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Council and Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver for allocating monies in order for us to hook onto rural water for our fellowship hall.

Our water was contaminated and wasn't fit to drink or use for any purpose.

A special thanks is offered to Thomas Yahola, Tukvptce District representative. He was real instrumental in helping us go through the procedure to get this done. We are very happy to have safe water. *Mvto* and God bless.

Yeager United Methodist Church members,
Yeager



The Muscogee Nation News

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November 1999, 8 pages

Program making home ownership a reality for citizens

OKMULGEE — The Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is administering a new program that is making it possible for Muscogee tribal citizens, as well as other Native Americans, to obtain affordable housing.

The mortgage assistance program is assisting Native Americans by providing the availability of affordable home ownership through grant assistance. The program is providing assistance for qualified applicants on Indian trust land or simple fee land.

The National Council formally adopted the Section 184 Housing Codes through National Council Act 99-109 on Aug. 28. Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver signed the legislation into law on Sept. 1.

The Mortgage Assistance Program will assist Native Americans by providing access to sources of private financing to Indian families and Indian housing authorities who otherwise could not acquire housing financing because of the unique legal status of Indian trust land.

please see **MORTGAGE...**, page 5

Beaver to lead tribe into 21st century

Chief takes 60 percent of majority vote

OKMULGEE — Incumbent Muscogee (Creek) Okmulgee District Seat C Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver took over 60 percent of the majority vote, defeating contender Kenneth L. Childers by 705 votes, according to Muscogee Nation Election Board unofficial results.

Beaver, of Jenks, received 2013 votes to Childers' 1308.

Voting for the principal chief's race was down by 500 from ballots cast during the primary election.

Beaver received 778 absentee votes to Childers' 310.

In the second chief's race, A.D. Ellis, of Twin Hills, defeated George Tiger 1,841 to 1,469.

Tiger received 572 absentee votes to Ellis' 525.

Three National Council races were decided in the Dec. 4 election also:

Okfuskee District Seat B

- Bruce Smith (I) — 188
- H. Mae Jackson — 159

Okmulgee District Seat D

- Sandra Turner Peters — 406
- Fred Jones — 394



photo by Stephanie Barnett

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver and newly-elected Second Chief A.D. Ellis offer each other congratulations at Beaver's watch party held in Morris

Second Muscogee Film Festival finds permanent home in Tulsa



photo by Lucas Taylor

Canadian Filmmaker Tamara Bell shares her Haida tribal culture through ceremonial regalia and song.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Curtis Zunigha, the star of the History Channel production, "Tecumseh," prepares to give away History Channel promotional items to students attending Native American Visual Arts Education Day.

photo by Leta Rector
Proudly pictured below the "Muscogee Film Festival" marquee at OSU-Tulsa are Muscogee Film Festival staff: Lucas Taylor; Denise Jacobs; and Stephanie Barnett, with Coordinator Gerald Wofford.



photo by Lucas Taylor

Wes Studi, director of "Bonnie Lookaway's Iron Art Wagon," sets up his film before its screening.

Letters to the editor

Chief candidate grateful for support

Editor:

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone that supported me during my bid for the office of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief.

I am thankful to those who supported me by imparting words of prayer and advise as well as through campaign work and monetary contributions. I appreciate your demonstration of faith in my leadership abilities.

It has been an honor and pleasure to represent the Muscogee and Yuchi people of Creek District on the National Council. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Roger Barnett, Bristow

Editor's note: Roger Barnett, a National Council Representative to Creek District, Seat B, will relinquish his position in January.

Incarcerated citizen seeks to learn tribal ways

Editor:

My name is Elvin Ray Buck of Big Springs. I come to the people for spiritual guidance on my spiritual seeking on the Red Road.

I have been incarcerated for about six years. I started to learn the sweatlodge ways when I went to the youth authorities — that was my first contact with a circle lodge. Here, in California, they conduct the Inipi sweatlodge in the Lakota ways. I need to learn my own ways before I learn others. I speak from the heart and ask the people to please reach out and write to me so I can learn my identity. All ways are good, but I need to know about my peoples way — just simple things like our four colors and a few words in Muscogee. I may be contacted by writing: Elvin Ray Buck #J87729, P.O. Box 40900 B-6-118, Ione, CA

95640-0900. In prayers and respect,
Elvin Ray Buck, Ione, Calif.

Citizen appreciates prayers and kindness

Editor:

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in writing this thank you letter.

My family and I want to thank all of you for your prayers, support, and kindness during my illness. It is nice to know that there are still a lot of good, caring people in this world.

I want to thank the Muscogee Nation Office of Principal Chief and the National Council for their kindness and support to my family. My family and I really did appreciate the fruit basket and the plant.

My parents have been telling me that many people have been asking how I am doing. Well, I have been released by my doctors, did not require any rehabilitation for my illness, and I have returned to work on a full time basis. I feel great.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for their prayers, support, kindness, and for being there for me and my family. God bless all of you. Mvto!

Emanuel Louis Morgan, Okmulgee

Council Oak Committee appreciates help

Editor:

Tulsa Creek Indian Community's Council Oak Committee would like to say mvto to all the ceremonial grounds and spectators who participated and helped make this year's event a great success.

A special thanks is extended to Ocevpofo (Hickory Ground) women who helped the ladies of TCIC serve the evening meal. We greatly appreciate the help of the National Council for appropriating funds for this event.

Pat Powell, Tulsa

Lady seeks relatives that will share history

Editor:

I am the great-granddaughter of Abbie Lee and Charles Johnson, the granddaughter of Viola Johnson-Smith-Custer, and the daughter of Doris and Tom Smith.

They were from the cities of Eufaula, Checotah, and Muskogee. I believe my grandmother's sister was Gladys Northcutt. I am researching my family's genealogy and would like to get in touch with relatives that will share our family history with me.

Contact me by writing: Kathy Smith-Edwards, 17430 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708; or e-mail katlou5@earthlink.net.

Kathy Smith-Edwards, Fountain Valley, Calif.

Man wants to correspond with relative

Editor:

In my continuing geneological studies, I have recently discovered two of my late relatives and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to correspond with any of their descendants.

Their names are: Lizzie Vore (Feb. 9, 1876 — July 15, 1969) of Tulsa and Charles Curtis McIntosh (June 2, 1902 — June 1981) of Stroud.

Contact me by writing: 2003 Lacey St., Apt. 20, Bakersfield, CA 93304-5987; or e-mail semvnacke@netzero.net. Mvto!

Brian D. Worthy, Bakersfield, Calif.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

"Native Lands: Indians and Georgia" opens

ATLANTA — Visitors to the Atlanta History Center have the opportunity to explore Georgia's Native American history in an exhibition featuring never-before-displayed objects and images assembled from across the nation.

"Native Lands: Indians and Georgia," showcases a variety of significant pieces, including: original treaties of New Echota and Indian Springs; exquisite examples of beadwork on 19th century bandolier bags and moccasins; clothing crafted by Maskoke and Cherokee women; and household objects carried on the Trail of Tears. A 1700s Maskoke town is depicted, along with an 1800s Cherokee family hearth scene depicting the creative blending of native and European cultures.

Unlike most accounts, which stop with the Trail of Tears, this exhibition explores Native Americans' recent history and their continuing connections to Georgia through the voices and artistry of contemporary Maskokvike and Cherokees. Complementing the gallery portion of "Native Lands" are three unique outdoor food gardens recreating Mississippian, Maskoke, and Cherokee agriculture.

"Native Lands: Indians in Georgia" and associated programs have been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibition, which will be on display at the Atlanta History Center Nov. 13, 1999 through Jan. 1, 2001.



photo submitted by Atlanta History Center

This elaborate bandolier bag was worn by a wealthy Maskoke man in the early 1800s. Made with glass beads, silk, and wool obtained through trade with Europeans, bandolier bags were created by women and worn for formal occasions and ceremonies by elite men.

Ryal School celebrates Native American Day



Donnie McNac, Deacon of Tulmochusse Indian Baptist Church, explains the works of a church and the importance of spiritualism in the lives of Indians today.



Photos by Lucas Taylor
Artwork by JR Taylor



Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground Speaker, Eunice Hill, urges the Ryal School students to ask their parents about the Mvskoke culture and which clan, ceremonial ground, and tribal town they belong to.



Mvskoke artist Robert "Fatty" Satterfield, who poses with some of his paintings, shared his feelings towards Indian expression by way of art.



Sam Proctor of Dustin tells the story of how Indian people lost the lands they called home as told to him by elders and family members from past generations.

Religion a major force in Muscogee culture

by Gerald Wofford

As we draw ever closer to a new century, Native peoples cannot go forward without remembering their past. It is from holding onto things from the past, that the culture, language, way of life and humor, that aboriginal peoples will persevere.

In last month's issue, we looked at the traditional ceremonial people and how they are adapting to a changing society and century. This part of Muscogee culture is and always will be, a treasured part, but does not sum the the entire whole of Muscogee spirituality.

Their are so many different aspects of culture — some old and established and others continually evolving. Facets of culture such as food, music, and even sports are so ingrained into the Muscogee culture that you cannot wholly represent modern culture without including them all.

A major facet of Muscogee culture is Christianity. Many even consider this as the main part of Muscogee religion as opposed to the ceremonial aspect. Although many Muscogee, and Native Americans in general, do not always know about their tribe's ceremonial ways, it is even fewer that have not had some type of Christian upbringing or influence.

It is likely their are fewer Muscogee peoples that can sing their ceremonial songs and converse about their dances with historical accuracy as compared to those who can sing a hymn in their native tongue. Perhaps the written word — Muscogee hymnals and Bibles — are responsible, in part, for this. Credit can be given to the church for preserving native singing through printing hymns in the Muscogee tongue. Certainly this was not their main objective — conversion to Christianity being first and foremost — but it has made a contribution toward the preservation of native hymns.

Early conversion to Christianity was no act of love or compassion. In June of 1541 Spanish conqueror Hernando De Soto not only brought bloodshed and disease, but Catholic missionaries to evangelize "heathen" tribal peoples of the southeast. This, though secondary to finding precious gold, was their mission.

In the northeast, missionary John Eliot preached to Indian tribes, having by his side a New Testament which he had translated into the Algonquian language. This was the first Bible printed in America.

To many Indians, religious upbringing in Indian Churches is at the very heart of their culture. There have been many Indian peoples, who have left their homes in pursuit of a better living. Intertribal churches have served as a haven for many such Indians for which native religion is the only link

and remembrance of tribal identity.

Some tribal citizens have had a problem with religion or Christianity — claiming it to be a "white man's religion." John Riley doesn't think so. Riley is a Muscogee citizen and pastor of Hvtcecvbv Baptist Church near Ryal.

"From the beginning, the Indians, they knew God back then. They depended on him ever since. [Europeans] may have brought the Bible over, but it's still God's word," Riley said.

The late Baptist Preacher Jimmy "Bunny" Hill expressed his opinion on this controversial subject.

"The scripture tells you to 'forsake all', for God. There has been some confusion, rather than say-

on the right side and women on the left. Many Indian Churches still practice this custom as well.

In all fairness, Christianity has embraced the Muscogee and most Muscogee have embraced it. From the earliest days when the first missionaries came with the word of God, Bibles and gospel hymnals played a major influence, and still do today.

On the flip side, religion has certainly dissociated Indian tribes. Historically, many Muscogee have forsaken the traditional way of life to embrace the gospel. This in turn led to dissension among clans, friends, and families. No longer participating in ceremonial ground rituals, many embraced this new European religion. For many native

peoples, Christianity was the first major step towards assimilation. Perhaps with the exception of formal education, no other force has been so successful in adapting native Americans into mainstream society.

The Muscogee who are Christians and the Muscogee who are traditional, ceremonial people have, in most recent times, been in disagreement — often insulting the other side. Why are the two most dominating contingents of Muscogee culture odds? According to some church elders, this has always not been the case. Riley said, "they used to be just like one. The stompgrounds, they believe in God, they depended on him, just like the churches did. But they used the sacred medicine that was for the health of their bodies and the churches

was for the spirit, so it was all one. But in this day and time — even the ministers that we are today — we kick at one another. You know, back then, I remember...the older minister or the pastor of our sister church across the river, Thewarle. I remember that my mother used to tell me that when the pastor, who belonged to a certain stompground, used to fast, he would ask the church and get permission to go over there and use the medicine. They would let him go and he would fast and use the medicine. He didn't go to dance or anything, just to use the medicine. After everything was over, he would report himself back in and they would take him back; he would get up there and lead the church."

According to Riley, and the traditional leader interviewed in last month's issue, the lack of knowledge in both camps is due greatly to a lack of prayer and fasting. They both mentioned that fasting meant days, sometimes a week or more — whereas today, a fast may only mean an hour, an afternoon, or evening at the ceremonial grounds or a fourth Sunday church meeting. These lengthened fasts of long ago enabled the grounds and the churches to lead and have better knowledge and understanding. Not only of themselves, and their surroundings, but of one another.



Members of Hvtcecvbv Baptist Church pose by their newly-built church in 1915. The building still serves Hvtcecvbv Church today.

ing becoming Christ-like, some people think that to become a Christian is to become white-like."

In the 1800s, as manifest destiny continued and the converting Native Americans became important to white settlers — there was territorial competition for the "saving" of native souls. French Catholics and English Protestants would often battle over Northeastern Indian tribes. Said one Onondaga chief, "you both tell us to be Christians, you both make us mad. We know not what side to choose." Many times the Onondaga and neighboring tribes would pray with the side that offered them the best deal.

As in any society facing something new, there would be rejection and acceptance. The gospel, or word of God, did spread eventually to the southeastern United States. What is now the Southern Baptist would play a great role in influencing the Muscogee confederacy's "civilized" life-style. Later, as the Nation was forced westward, the Methodist beliefs would take hold also. So strong has the Christian influence been on the Muscogee that the very symbols on the tribal flag represent Christian idea of 'planting and harvesting or sowing and reaping.' The Mennonites, whose beliefs and ways of life are similar to the Quakers and Puritans still practice the church seating of men

submitted photo

Programs-notice

Vision program to begin accepting applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Vision Program will accept applications for the fiscal year 2000 funding period on Dec. 15.

Applicants must reside within the State of Oklahoma and must attach copies of the following to completed application: tribal citizenship card; social security card; health insurance card, if any; and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Optometry Officer's statement if claiming priority IV.

Funding will be expended based on the following priority guidelines: **Priority I:** enrolled original allottees; **Priority II:** children 18 years of age or less; **Priority III:** elderly Creek citizens age 50 and over; and **Priority IV:** Creek citizens age 19 to 50 and who are visually handicapped with a medical and refractive eye condition. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Chief Optometry Officer shall make final decision regarding eligibility under this priority.

Each individual is eligible to receive up to \$150 total for vision assistance. The program will pay up to \$60 for vision exams. Other vision services provided include glasses and repairs. Contact lenses are only allowable if required medically, not for cosmetic purposes. All participants must contribute a \$10 co-payment, or a usable pair of prescription eyeglass frames, toward the purchase of eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Eligible applicants must use a Muscogee (Creek) Nation contract vendor and may receive assistance once every two years. Assistance is dependent on the availability of funds.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Contract Health Program of the Division of Health Administration will be responsible for administering the vision program.

For more information or to request a application call (918) 758-2710. Applications will be sent by mail. No walk-in applications will be accepted.

Muscogee Nation vocational rehab services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Services is providing assistance to eligible American Indians with disabilities in becoming employed throughout the tribe's eight county area.

To be eligible for assistance, individuals must: have a physical and/or mental disability which is a substantial barrier to employment; benefit from the services and require the services to prepare, enter or retain employment; have a certificate degree of Indian blood quantum card; and reside within the Creek Nation's service area.

For more information, contact the Creek Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Services at (918) 623-1197 or 1 (888) 367-2332.

Organizations offers senior work program

OKMULGEE — Green Thumb Inc., and the National Indian Council on Aging, nonprofit organizations, are offering a Senior Community Service Employment Program to older and disadvantaged adults.

Individuals must be 55 years of age or older and have limited income to participate. Under the Senior Community Services Employment Program, participants interests and skills are matched with a commu-

Criner selected as October employee of the month

OKMULGEE — Julie Criner, executive secretary, was selected as Muscogee (Creek) Nation's October employee of the month.

Criner's duties consist of providing administrative and office support to the executive director as well as backup support to the office of principal chief.

She graduated from Preston High School and has been continuing her education through night school at various junior colleges. She is currently attending a night class as Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee and plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in January.

Criner is involved with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, and the March of Dimes.

Her parents are Page and Glenda James of Okmulgee.

Criner has been employed with the Muscogee Nation for five years.



photo by Lucas Taylor

nity service training assignment at a public, tribal or nonprofit agency called a host agency.

Green Thumb and NICOA will pay participants minimum wage for twenty hours of community service work each week while receiving training, work experience, and supportive services designed to prepare them for employment.

For more information, contact the Creek Nation Senior Services Department at (918) 756-8700, ext. 304.

Health clinics treat 2,500 cases of allergies

OKMULGEE — Throughout the months of August, September and October, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation health clinics have treated nearly 2,500 allergy related symptoms such as asthma, acute and chronic rhinitis and sinusitis.

Allergies affect more than one-third of all Americans. An allergy is caused by hypersensitivity of the immune system leading to a misdirected immune response. The immune system normally protects the body against harmful substances such as bacteria, viruses and toxins. Allergy occurs when the immune system reacts to substances that are generally harmless and in most people do not cause an immune response.

Although spring and summer are considered peak allergy seasons, there are those who will suffer from indoor allergies during the winter months, especially around the holidays. Terpene, found in the oil and sap of Christmas trees, can cause allergic reactions in some individuals. Stored holiday decorations can collect several months worth of dust resulting in dust mites. Mold may also be on Christmas trees.

If you feel you may be suffering from allergies, contact a primary care provider to see what treatment options are available.

Mortgage

continued from page 1

To be eligible for the program, applicants must be

first time home buyers and reside within an Indian area and within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma. Conditions governing eligibility: qualifying as a family; an annual family income which does not exceed the maximum income limit for that family size; being 18 years of age or older; providing degree of tribal membership or Indian blood quantum, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each family member on the required forms; signing all required forms, including the consent for disclosure of information; and be willing to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from a Housing and Urban Development approved and certified financial lender.

In determining participant eligibility and preference, it is the policy of the housing authority to make participant selection as follows: eligible Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are involuntarily displaced by government action or natural disaster; full-blood Muscogee ages 62 and over; eligible large families, elderly families, near elderly families, and families with disabilities that are Muscogee citizens; all other Muscogee citizens; and all other Indian tribal members.

Program eligibility participation will be income based and credit based. For families meeting the low income criteria, grant assistance will be based upon the difference between the acquisition, rehabilitation or construction cost minus the maximum loan approval amount. The maximum grant assistance shall not exceed \$25,000 or 50 percent of the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction cost up, whichever is less.

For families meeting the moderate income criteria, the maximum grant assistance will be up to \$7000. The moderate income grant will be used for down payments and closing costs.

If, after a pre-application process, the applicant is deemed an eligible loan candidate, the applicant will be referred to a HUD certified financial lender. If the applicant is accepted by the financial lender and determined to be a successful loan applicant, a determination of grant assistance to be offered through the mortgage assistance program shall be made.

For more information, call (918) 756-8504.

Education

College of nursing enrolls first tribal citizen

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — The Recruitment/Retention of American Indians into Nursing Program at the University of North Dakota College of Nursing enrolled Andrea Baker as its first enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation into the program.

Baker will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing.

She is the daughter of Andrew Skeeter and Ramona Mason of Tulsa.



Baker.

Bruner selected as who's who in America

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Jeffrey Benham Bruner has been selected for inclusion in the Millennium Edition of Who's Who in America.

Bruner graduated from Holdenville High School in 1979. He received a bachelor's of arts degree in Spanish from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1983. He earned master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees in Spanish literature at Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey, in 1986 and 1990 respectively.

Bruner is currently an associate professor of Spanish in the department of foreign language at West Virginia University in Morgantown where he and his wife, Dr. Twyla A. Meding, reside.

He is the son of the late Eugene and Billye Bruner of Holdenville.

His maternal grandparents are the late William J. and Pearl M. Benham of Holdenville. Paternal grandparents are Roman and the late Blanche Bruner of Carson.

Bruner is a member of the Tukvptce Tribal Town and the Tiger Clan.



Bruner

Salt Lake City teen attends two conferences

SALT LAKE CITY — Jacob Floyd was selected to attend a 11 day Native American Journalism Camp in Seattle and the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

Floyd, a junior at East High School, traveled to Seattle University to work and live with 14 other American Indian students across the country. The team created a 16-page newspaper that was printed by the Seattle Times.

The project, "Rising Voices '99," was sponsored by the Native American Journalists Association.

He was one of 350 scholars throughout the United States chosen for the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Students were chosen

on the basis of their scholastic merit, community involvement, and leadership experiences. During the conference he met with Utah congressmen to discuss issues facing his community and country.

Floyd also took part in two role playing activities. In "If I Were President," he worked with scholars acting as Cabinet members facing an international crisis involving a land dispute in the South China Sea. He later assumed the role of United States Representative by debating, amending, and voting on proposed bills concerning the use of medical marijuana, human rights, and bilingual education.

He is the son of James and Carol Floyd. His grandmother is Margaret Floyd of Eufuala.



Floyd

Sequoyah high student excels in academics

TAHLEQUAH — DeAnn Watashe currently maintains a 3.9 grade point average at Sequoyah High School.

Watashe, a senior, has been on the principal's honor roll and a member of the national honor society throughout high school.

She is the daughter of Vincent and April Watashe of Kellyville. Her grandparents are James and Alice Watashe Jr of Kellyville and Jo Ann Bugg of Skiatook.

Watashe plans to attend Northeastern State University in the fall of 2000.



Watashe

Careers

Citizen receives national recognition

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Brigita Leader Harley was recognized for her commitment and dedication to improve vocational rehabilitation to Native Americans with disabilities at the Consortia Administration of Native Americans in Rehabilitation Annual Conference.

Harley created and established the first tribal liaison position with the Oklahoma State Department of Rehabilitation Services Agency promoting awareness on counseling with Native American traditional values versus mainstream society values and levels of assimilation, sharing Indian culture, educating on tribal sovereignty issues, and deaf culture and deafness. She is the agency's facilitator and consultant to the eight American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation programs established throughout Oklahoma.

She has obtained a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation and is a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor and currently enrolled in paralegal courses at East Central University. Harley is the president of the Oklahoma Association of Multi-Cultural Rehabilitation Concerns and a board member of the

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Association.

She is the daughter of Augustina Warledo Rodriguez of Tulsa and the granddaughter of the late Barney Leader and Liza Leader of Holdenville.

Harley is a member of the Alligator Clan and Cedar River Tulsa ceremonial ground.

Writer releases her first published novel

SAN DIEGO — Sheri McGregor released her first published novel, "Dream Catcher," in September.

Set high in the snowy Nacimientto mountains of New Mexico, Dream Catcher features a woman with a secret identity, a handsome doctor to fall in love with, and a Chihuahua modeled after McGregor's own dog.

Her romance writing interests guided her to join Romance Writers of America where her local chapter voted her 1998's Member of the Year. She is currently working on a novel that reaches into her Creek heritage and will be set, in part, in Oklahoma.

She is the daughter of Gerald Smith of Norman.

Dream Catcher is available exclusively at Wal-Mart stores or on-line at www.Wal-Mart.com.



McGregor

Artist designs poster for Indian conference

TULSA — Mvskoke artist Jon Tiger of Eufuala recently designed a poster for the Seventh National Indian Nations Conference, "Old Medicine/New Voices of the Seventh Generation: Reconnecting Partnerships and Reclaiming Traditions," held at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Tiger was present to sign posters for all registered conference attendees and gave a 20 minute talk on the design. His artwork was also on display and for sale during the conference.

The conference was designed to bring together federal, tribal and state professionals with victims of crime and their families to share knowledge, experiences and ideas for developing programs that serve the unique needs of crime victims in Indian country.

Native Tulsan joins staff as board specialist

TULSA — Ronald B. Shaw, M.D., recently joined the staff at Southcrest Hospital as a Board Certified Internal Medicine Specialist.

Dr. Shaw has spent the past 18 years at Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

He graduated from Cascia Hall Preparatory School where he played football, represented his school at boys state, and attained the gold and silver medals in science. He graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle.

His parents are Ruth Shaw of Tulsa and John L. Shaw, Jr. of Owasso.



Shaw

Society

Arrivals

Taelor Ashton Dowdy

TULSA — Taelor Ashton Dowdy was born Sept. 9 at St. Francis Hospital to Mac and Tiffany Oowdy of Tulsa.

She weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches in length.

Her grandparents are Bill and Bernadine Dowdy of Glenpool.

She is the great-granddaughter of Joe and Dorothy McNac of Glenpool.



Dowdy

Jeffrey Scot Fife

TULSA — Jeffrey Scot Fife Jr. was born Aug. 27 at St. Francis Hospital to Jeff and Thomasine Fife of Beggs.

He weighed 8 pounds and was 19 and one-half inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Melinda Byrd of Okmulgee and Justine and Kenneth Oeputee of Saint Xavier, Mont.

Paternal grandparents are Mary and Bill Fife of Weleetka.

Maternal great-grandparents are Mary and James Oeputy of Crow Agency, Mont. and the late Julia Harjo Byrd.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Carmen and James Fife and the late Mr. and Mrs. David Poe.

He has one brother, Aaron Jones.

Fife is of Muscogee, Crow, and Chickasaw descent. He belongs to the Wind Clan and is the son of the Raccoon Clan.



Fife

Siah Kade Humble

OKMULGEE — Siah Kade Humble was born Oct. 3 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Keith and Carol Humble.

He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 and one-half inches in length.

His maternal grandmother is Irene Hummingbird.

His paternal grandparents are James and Ethel Humble.

Maternal great-grandparents are Earl and Wisey Sands.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Tom and Sallie Yarholer.

He has one brother, Landon Keith Humble.



Humble

Meely and Wolfe exchange vows in Holdenville

HOLOENVILLE — Arnold Meely and Alex Michelle Wolfe exchanged marriage vows on Nov. 5 at the Hughes County Courthouse with Judge George Butner officiating.

Mr. Meely belongs to the Bear Clan and Apekv Tribal Town. Mrs. Meely belongs to the Wind Clan and Hitchite Tribal Town.

He is the son of Elizabeth Meely of Holdenville and Lincoln Meely of Pauls Valley. He is the grandson of the late Robert and Marnie Fixico, Holdenville.

She is the daughter of Janice Bailey of Hollywood, Fla., Edward Bailey of Holdenville, and Alex Pete

Wolfe of Shawnee. She is the granddaughter of Dorothy Pinezaddleby of Okmulgee and James Holata of Wewoka and Lena Bailey of Holdenville.

The couple and daughter, Andye Wolfe, have made their home in Holdenville.



Mr. and Mrs. Meely and daughter, Andye

Okemah boy celebrates third birthday

OKEMAH — Sundala Cheyenne-Skylar Bible turned three years old on Oct. 17.

He celebrated with a combination birthday and Halloween party held at the Muscogee Nation Okmulgee Child Development Center on Oct. 29.

Those attending were: his sister, Mallory Bible; cousin, Alex "A.J." Alvarez Jr.; grandmother, Billie S. Scott, costumed classmates; Cody Gilroy, Kyra Najera, Madison Matney, Hanna Gouge, Dalton Longan, Bryce McIntosh, Zack Hardren, Renea Tiger, Morgan Pascale, Jace Bowen, Texas Pascale, Austin Burwell, and Farrell Blackbear; teacher, teacher's aides, and former teacher's: Shelia Harjo, Twyla Paquin, Betty Frye, Martha Wind, and Rayna Butler.

Bible is a member of Springfield United Methodist Church. He belongs to the Beaver Clan and New Tulsa Ceremonial Ground.

He is the son of Ruth Bible.

His grandparents are Billie Sulphur and the late John Ellis Scott. His great-grandparents are the late Alex and Fannie Sulphur and Ellis and Susie Scott.



Bible

Clearview girl celebrates at Chuck E. Cheese

TULSA — Jasmine Nicole Buckley celebrated her third birthday Nov. 6 at Chuck E. Cheese with a "Scooby Doo" party theme.

Those attending were relatives: Jackie and Patricia Buckley; Shelley, Tess, and Garrett Harjo; Melinda, J.R., and Ashton Taylor; and Lucas, Stephanie, and Alissa Taylor.

She is the daughter of Sheila and Richard Buckley Jr. of Clearview.

Her paternal grandparents are Richard Buckley of Clearview and Jackie Buckley of Okmulgee.



Buckley

Her maternal grandparents are Sally and the late Walter Taylor of Henryetta.

Paternal great-grandparents are Hepsy and Bill Harjo of Weleetka and the late Fannie and Sam Buckley.

Her maternal great-grandparents are Edna and the late Martin Mitchell of Henryetta and the late Lizzie Tiger.

Tulsa toddler celebrates second birthday

TULSA — Serena Nicole Todd turned two on Sept. 5. She celebrated her birthday with a "Blue Clue's" party and cookout.

She is the daughter of Tricia and Oustin Todd of Tulsa.

Todd is a beginning shellshaker and southern cloth dancer.

Her maternal grandparents are Cheri Haney of Glenpool and Ira "Poncho" Fields of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Pam and Tommy Smith of Glenpool and Janet and Dale Todd of Owasso.

Maternal great-grandparents are Pauline and the late Woodrow Haney of Glenpool and Marie and the late Ira Fields, Sr.

She is the great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth and the late J.P. James of Tulsa.

Todd belongs to the Polecat Clan and Kellyville Tribal Town.



Todd

Community

Bristow halloween party well attended

BRISTOW — Bristow Indian Community held its annual Halloween party with 300 people from Bristow, Depew, Gypsy, Kellyville, Okemah, Okmulgee, Olive, Shamrock, and Welty in attendance.

The following games and activities were held for youth and elders: a haunted house; pumpkin toss; pick-the-floating-pumpkin; costume contest; pop ring toss; spook tunnel; cake walk; and moon walk.

Hot dogs, cake, and various other dishes were served.

Obituaries-religion

WILLIAM BARNETT

SASAKWA — Funeral services for William Buster Barnett were Oct. 11 at Spring Baptist Church with Revs. Gene Harjo officiating and Billy Harjo, and Joe Culley assisting.

Wake services were held Oct. 9 and 10 at Robert Simons Funeral Home Chapel in Henryetta.

He was born Nov. 7, 1920 in Ryal to William B. Barnett and Lillie Lewis Asbury. He died Oct. 7 in Okemah.

Barnett married Mariah Randall in 1944. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Barnett was ordained as a deacon on Jan. 3, 1965 at Randall Mission. He retired from the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He married Virginia Whitlow in 1982. He was a member of Spring Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by: his first wife; his parents; one daughter; one son; and one grandson.

Barnett is survived by: his wife of the home; one daughter, Mona Soontay of Cache; one stepdaughter, Katherine Lee of Lawton; six brothers, Wilbert Starr of Wewoka, Haney Barnett of Mounds, Johnny Joe Asbury of Henryetta, Amos Barnett of Oklahoma City, Smiley Barnett of Dewar, and Wesley Asbury of Wichita Falls, Texas; two sisters, Katy Barnett of Dustin and Carol Asbury Morris of Tulsa; six grandchildren, Kristen Nimsey, Sonya Liles, Earley Lopez, Shaunda Lee, Sunshine Nimsey, and Brook Nimsey; and six great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Steve Randall; Marvin Lowe; Lee Pumtka; James George; Sidney Lee; and Jerry Sumka.

Interment was at Spring Baptist Cemetery.

Jonas Harley

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Jonas Harley were held Sept. 20 at Hickory Ground #2 Baptist Church with Rev. Frank Billy officiating.

Harley died Sept. 16 at St. John Medical Center. He was born April 25, 1932 in Hanna to Alex and Stella Proctor Harley.

Harley married Susie Fry on Feb. 14, 1965 in Eufaula. He was a retired welder and had made his home in Tulsa since 1960. Harley enjoyed playing his guitar, gardening, and enjoyed the company of his grandchildren.

Barnett was preceded in death by a brother, Dan Harley and a sister, Pauline Solomon.

He is survived by: his wife of the home; two daughters, Melba Hall of Checotah and Jeanette Harley of Tulsa; two sons, Frank Harley of Tulsa and Jeff Harley of Broken Arrow; three brothers, Tim Harley of Henryetta, Alfred Harley of Okmulgee, and Stanley Harley of Oklahoma City; one sister, Helen Harley of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren, Jonas Isaiah Harley, Matthew Harley, Joshua Hall, Janelle Hall, Jolissa Sue Hall; and many other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Billy Ray Harley; J.D. Harley; Richard Harley; Speedy Harley; Billy Joe Harley; and Andrew Harley.

Honorary pallbearers were: Leo Hicks and Kelly Lowe.

Interment was held at the Harjo Family Cemetery.

GEORGE JACOBS

TULSA — Funeral services for George Jacobs Sr. were held Sept. 1 at Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

Wake services were held Aug. 31 at the church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

Jacobs died Aug. 28 in McIntosh County. He was born Oct. 30, 1949 in McIntosh County to Betty Tiger Jacobs and the late Sam Jacobs.

He was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Jacobs attended Graham High School.

He was preceded in death by his father, Sam Jacobs.

Jacobs is survived by: sons, George Jacobs II of Henryetta and Owen Jacobs of Weleetka; two daughters, Alane Jacobs of Weleetka and Megan Jacobs of Tulsa; his mother of Tulsa; three brothers, Reuben Harjo, Homer Jacobs, and Frank Jacobs, all of Tulsa; two sisters, Nadine Francisco and Irene Jacobs, both of Tulsa; and many relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: David Jacobs; Paul Jacobs; Scotty Harjo; Gary Harjo; Leroy Francisco Jr.; John Pigeon Jr.; and Barney Jacobs.

Interment was at the Jacobs Family Cemetery.

EVELYN MCDOWELL

EUFULA — Funeral services for Evelyn Pauline Turpin McDowell were held Oct. 26 at Gregg Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tim Turner officiating.

She died Oct. 23 at St. Francis Hospital. McDowell was born Jan. 16, 1950 in Dalhart, Texas to Roscoe William and Eloise Wanda Cummings Turpin.

She was a homemaker and a member of Lindsey Baptist Church. She married Roy Lea McDowell on March 9, 1974 at Hugo. She was a resident of Checotah.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

McDowell is survived by: a daughter, Mechelle Leigh McDowell of Checotah; three brothers, Billy Turpin and Howard Turpin both of Amarillo, Texas, and Jimmie Turpin of Dalhart, Texas; and one sister, Barbara Haschke of Dalhart, Texas.

Pallbearers were: Douglas Henry; John McClain; Chris McClain; Kolby Turpin; Billy Turpin; and Josh Cummings.

Honorary pallbearer was Emie Hatley.

Interment was at Triplett cemetery.

CHANCE SMITH

OKEMAH — Funeral services were held for Chance Joey Smith on Oct. 4 at the First Baptist Church.

He died Oct. 1, west of Wetumka. He was born July 16, 1976 in Henryetta to Jack Smith and Pauline Jack.

Chance was raised in Dustin and moved to Wetumka during his 11th grade year. He graduated with honors from Wetumka High School. Smith was selected to visit Washington D.C. and meet the president because of his achievements. Because he was quiet and humble, he was elected as shiest in the school. He worked at the Cross Roads Restaurant for five years before obtaining employment at

Kwikset. Smith enjoyed playing video games on his Nintendo and Play Station, as well as bowling.

Smith is survived by: his parents; stepmother, Martha Williams; and grandmother, Louma Jack.

Pallbearers were: Gene Williams; Jimmy Williams; Johnny Williams; Willy Frair; and Jay Brown.

Interment was in Rock Creek Cemetery in Okemah.

EMON WALLACE JR

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Emon Chuck Wallace Jr. were held Sept. 14 at Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Robert Washington officiating.

He died Sept. 9 in Dallas, Texas. He was born Oct. 21, 1945 in Okmulgee to Emon Wallace and Billie Berryhill.

Emon served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He served with the 54th Artillery group as a PFC E3.

Wallace is survived by: a son, Brian Wallace of Dallas; one stepdaughter, Vanessa Two-Lauce of Dallas; his parents, Richard and Billie Soontay of Dallas; a brother, Kenneth Wallace of Arlington, Texas; two sisters, Nancy Pipins of Alamogordo, N.M. and Christina Totubbi of Dallas; an uncle, Emie Berryhill of Guthrie; an aunt, Edna Mae Harjo of Guthrie; and many relatives and friends.

Interment was at Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery.

Gratitude

On behalf of the family, we would like to express our appreciation for all the cards, kindness, support, flowers, food, services, and prayers extended to us throughout the illness and during the loss of our daughter, wife, mother, sister, niece, cousin, aunt.

She was special to us and we knew she was special to others, but were truly amazed at the outpouring of love and it is with deepest gratitude that we thank everyone.

Juanita Baldridge family

We would like to everyone for their kindness and contributions during the loss of our loved ones.

We would also like to thank the following: Slick, Bristow, and Okemah communities; Schumacher Funeral Home; Little Quarsarty Baptist Church; Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver; and the Muscogee Nation.

Terry and Juanita Hill Barnett families

Religion

Springfield to hold Indian taco and garage sale
OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church is holding an Indian taco sale and garage sale on Dec. 11 at Okemah Smoke Shop.

The gargage sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Indian taco sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The \$3.50 dinner includes a drink and dessert.



The Muscogee Nation News

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Inauguration being held for executive, legislative leaders

OKMULGEE — The inauguration of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver, Second Chief A.D. Ellis, and 26 National Council representatives will begin at 10 a.m., Jan. 8 at Creek Nation Okmulgee Bingo.

The theme for Inauguration 2000 is "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the New Millennium: Celebrating a Legacy of Progress Through Perseverance — One Spirit, One Voice, One People."

Following the swearing-in of the tribe's executive and legislative officials and the election of the National Council Speaker, second speaker, and sergeant-at-arms for the 11th session, Beaver will deliver the inaugural address. A short video montage depicting tribal-related events spanning the last century will follow.

Well-wishers will have the opportunity to congratulate tribal leaders in a receiving line that will prelude a reception, an evening hog fry, and stompdance.

Tom Beaver will serve as master of ceremonies of the event. Dignitaries, including Oklahoma tribal leaders and tribal royalty have been invited to attend.

Creek Nation Okmulgee Bingo is located at 1601 N. Wood Drive (U.S. Highway 75), one mile south of the tribal capitol complex.

For more information, call (918) 756-870, ext. 200.

Head Start bests Mercedes and BMW in customer satisfaction announces president's council

WASHINGTON — The Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families announced this month that the Head Start program received the highest score of any government agency or private company — even surpassing the ratings of Mercedes-Benz and BMW, in the latest American Customer Satisfaction Index released recently by the President's Management Council.

The 1999 overall customer satisfaction index for the Head Start Program is 87. Based on a survey of Head Start parents, it is 15 points above the current national score of 73. "It is gratifying that parents whose children are getting the benefit of Head Start's early education feel respected, included, and satisfied with this program's place in their lives," said Olivia A. Golden, HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

Parents' satisfaction with the program was measured by asking about Head Start's benefit for the child and for the family. Further, the survey found that on a scale of one to 100 for parent trust of the program, Head Start rated at 94.

Head Start received nearly equally high ratings from parents on questions about their confidence in



file photo

Saulpa Head Start kids celebrate Christmas, circa 1984

the program and its role as an advocate for them and their children. "We are very excited that Head Start is succeeding for so many families. Extensive research has proven that Head Start prepares children to do well in school, now we have first word from the parents of their confidence in the program," said Patricia T. Montoya, Commissioner of the ACF Administration of Children, Youth, and Families."

Merry Christmas from The Muscogee Nation News



The Muscogee Nation News seeks nominees for outstanding citizens

OKMULGEE — Throughout 1999 *The Muscogee Nation News* has spotlighted Muscogee people who have made an impact in the areas of promoting community welfare, tribal rights and sovereignty, cultural responsibility, and arts and entertainment during the last 100 years.



Chitto Harjo

The Muscogee Nation News requests that tribal citizens submit nominations for someone they feel should be recognized as the Muscogee (Creek) Citizen of the Century. These individuals can range from tribal politicians, traditional, community, and church leaders to veterans and educators.

Accompany each nomination with a short paragraph explaining why this person is deserving of that distinction. In January *The MNN* will announce the Citizen of the Century and the top nominees. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 8 and may be sent to: The Muscogee Nation News, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail, comm1@ocvnet.org

Individuals may also make nominations at the *The Muscogee Nation News* Citizen of the Century display on Jan. 8 at Inauguration 2000.

Principal chief offers holiday message

Merry holidays! During this wonderful season of joy, hope, and goodwill, I wish you and yours the very merriest and best of this season on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

My wish for you on the eve of this exciting new century is that you will enjoy good health, peace, and prosperity and that the new millennium will be a time of anticipation, wonderment, and thankfulness for dreams realized and hopes fulfilled.

As our families and friends gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember that the Savior came with a simple, but profound message — faith, hope



photo by Stephanie Barnett

Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver reads a Christmas story to Muscogee Nation Okmulgee Head Start students, left to right: Antonio Fisher; Charles Lowe; Sampson Tabbytite; Isiah Jimboy; and Nerressa Bonitz.

and love and the desire that we would live together in harmony. There can be no greater message than this.

May your holiday season be filled with family, friends, and an abundance of good

things throughout this coming year.

Have the happiest of holiday season.

— R. Perry Beaver,
Principal Chief

“with board approval” — which she did not have. Some outside visitors revealed that the Riverside smokeshop was losing money and had no cash flow. This contradicts Kelly’s statements published in the newsletter that T.C.I.C. was a solvent and model community.

Secretary Pat H. Powell expressed concern when it was realized money had been borrowed without the board’s approval, making them liable and accountable. She reported that there is no money for programs. Because only one membership meeting is held annually, I want to inform the membership of the situation.

I trust this will open your eyes to the many inequities being imposed upon us.

Okema B. Randall, Broken Arrow

Legal Notice

In the matter of:

Cameron Dicus

DOB: 08-19-98

Case No. JV-99-08

Notice of proceedings
for termination of parental rights

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation to: the unidentified natural father of Cameron Dicus born on the 19th

please see **LEGAL**...page 3

Letters to the editor

Principal chief thanks citizens for support
Editor:

I wish to thank each one of you for your support in the general election. Your confidence in my ability to lead the tribe through this next term is very much appreciated.

Together we can make a difference and ensure a brighter future for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the new millennium!

Thank you again for your prayers and support. May you and yours have a blessed holiday and may the spirit of the season stay with you throughout the coming year.

R. Perry Beaver, Glenpool

Citizen inquires about Purple Heart tags
Editor:

Are there any plans for the tribe to issue a Muscogee Nation Veterans’ Purple Heart motor vehicle tag?

Esther Grona, Okmulgee

Editor’s note: Provisions have been made for veterans’ tags to be issued by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of the Tax Commission through National Council Act 99-17.

Acting Muscogee Nation Tax Commissioner Craig Mosquito said plans for veterans of armed forces, disabled veterans, recipients of selected medals, and past or present prisoner of war tags will be processed as soon as a design has been made to order.

Lady says “inequities” imposed upon citizens
Editor:

The Tulsa Creek Indian Community Board of Directors were removed from office because of alleged irregularities in 1997. Chair Loretta Pat Kelly and Vice Chair Carol Morris were reelected in 1998. I registered a complaint, but McIntosh District Representative Wilbur Gouge stated there was nothing in place that said they could not run for office. I requested legislation be written to correct this, but apparently nothing has been done.

In the past I have appealed to the following: Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver; Attorney General David Mullin (who has since resigned); National Council Speaker Wilbur Gouge (1996-97); Tulsa District Representative Jesse Kelley and Robert Hufft — Ken Childers, Larry Bible, and Earl King ignore phone calls — and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Gover. As of this date — no reply.

It is plain that we have no need for five Tulsa District National Council representatives. It is an unnecessary expense to each representative \$800 monthly in addition to mileage when they do not have our people’s best interest as a top priority.

At the T.C.I.C. Board of Directors meeting held on Nov. 30 very disturbing allegations of mismanaged community funds and indebtedness imposed on the community — excluding both the community and board members — arose. Kelly stated it is the chairman’s prerogative, but she overlooked the phrase

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers’ letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens’ households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Barnett, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Denise Jacobs, circulation

Notice to public

On Dec. 10, 1999, the principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation issued the following executive order authorizing certain officers of the Nation to release certain financial records of the Nation to the United States upon further direction by the acting attorney general. The Nation's records are being provided in order to verify the Nation's compliance with certain payroll tax withholding laws. The records being provided are those of the Nation and do not include records of any individual citizen or employee.

Executive Order: 99-07

By virtue of the Executive power vested in the office of the Principal Chief by the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the authority specifically granted in NCA 95-52, it is hereby ordered that the following be adopted:

"Release of Financial Records of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation"

1.00 Findings:

1.01 There is a need to provide copies of certain of the Nation's financial records to the United States.

1.02 The conveyance of such records is in the best interest of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is a ges-

ture of good will on the part of the Nation and is NDT a waiver of sovereign immunity.

2.00 Authority/Action:

2.01 This Executive Order is addressed to the following officers, agencies, divisions and enterprises of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

Acting Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Controller, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Systems Board
Director, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Administration

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board

Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo, an enterprise of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Creek Nation Dkmulgee Bingo, an enterprise of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Creek Nation Muskogee Bingo, an enterprise of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Creek Nation Travel Plaza, an enterprise of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

2.02 Pursuant to NCA 95-52, upon publication of this Executive Order in The Muscogee Nation News, the above-listed officers, agencies, divisions and enterprises of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are hereby authorized and directed to convey the following described financial records of the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation, its agencies, divisions and enterprises, to the Acting Attorney General of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for subsequent conveyance to the United States Internal Revenue Service:

1. All IRS forms 940 and 941 filed by the Nation for the years 1996, 1997, and 1998;
2. All IRS forms W-2 and W-2G filed by the Nation for the years 1996, 1997, and 1998;
3. All IRS forms 1099 filed by the Nation for the years 1996, 1997, and 1998.

3.00 Distribution/Posting/Publication:

3.01 Copies of this Executive Order shall immediately be distributed to the officers, agencies, divisions and enterprises of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to whom it is addressed in section 2.01 hereof along with a copy of NCA 95-52.

3.02 This Executive Order shall be posted in a conspicuous place within the Administrative Building on the Nation's Tribal Headquarters and published in The Muscogee Nation News and shall be effective upon such publication.

/s/ R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, 12-10-99

Legal

continued from page 2

day of August, 1998, at Mount Graham Community Hospital, Safford, Arizona, to Christina Marie Dicus.

Notice is hereby given that proceedings for termination of the parental rights of the natural father of Cameron Dicus has been filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Dkmulgee County, Oklahoma, alleging that Cameron Dicus, born on August 19, 1998, at Mount Graham Community Hospital in Safford, Arizona, was born out of wedlock and requesting that the parental right of the natural father be terminated all as more fully stated in the Application for Termination of Parental Rights and Application for Notice of Termination Hearing by Publication on file in the Office of the District Court Clerk of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Notice is further given that said application will be heard before Judge Moore at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Courthouse, Dkmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 16th day of February, 2000 at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is further given that at such hearing you are entitled to the opportunity to be heard, including the right to object to said proposed termination and to offer evidence in support of your objection all as provided by law.

Notice is further given that failure by you to appear at said hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights and in the transfer of said child's care, custody or guardianship, or in said child's adoption.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1999.

/s/ Judge Moore

The National Council Representatives and staff would like to wish all tribal citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, friends, and neighbors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Holidays are upon us and this should be a very joyous time and our spirits should be high. It is a very festive season, but let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas.

Our high spirits during this holiday season enables us to respond in love to the needs around us and to show compassion to the people who surround us. The Creek people share a common bond of love that comes from God our Father and we're dependent on the strength we draw from one another. A world of love can make a world of difference.

Joy is contagious — spread it!

As the Nation enters into the year 2000 and the Council convenes the *Palen-Hvmkontvlaken* (11th) Session, we will be losing some of our representatives and gaining new ones. The work of those leaving will not be forgotten nor put aside. Work is accomplished through people who are honest with one another, committed to serve one another and willing to receive wise counsel from one another. The foundation of a strong Nation is joining together.

New Years Resolution

We have passed through one more year

Dne more long stage in the journey of life

Reaching forward to those things which are ahead

Remembering the good and forgetting past mistakes

Will make entering the new year a time of joyous anticipation.

Kenneth L. Childers, Speaker

Bill S. Fife, Second Speaker.

Richard Berryhill, Sergeant-at-Arms

Roger Barnett

Roy Bear

Larry S. Bible

Johnson Buck

Helen Chupco

A.D. Ellis

Barbara Gillespie

Wilbur Gouge

Jim B. Harjo

Robert Hufft

Jesse F. Kelley

Earl King

David Lewis

Harley Little

Dwayne Lowe

Famous Marshall

Abe McIntosh

Thomas McIntosh

David Nichols

Tom Pickering

Bruce Smith

George Tiger

Thomas Yahola

What was it like to have been an American Indian in the 20th century?

For a subject worked and reworked so often in novel, motion pictures and television, American Indians are...the least understood and the most misunderstood Americans of us all."

— President John F. Kennedy

by Gerald Wofford

What a century, and what a time to be Native American in it! As the last few days of the last decade of the last century of this millennium are counted, this country we call America cannot go forward earnestly without acknowledging its past. The United States has chosen to attempt to mend some of its wrongs.

The country has chosen to honor the black race, and rightfully so. It has done this through ways such as desegregating public schools and even dropping insulting caricatures like "Sambo" from restaurant signs.

This country's Latino population is continually growing. Population experts predict that 25 years into the 21st century there will be more Hispanics in the U.S. than any other race. This ever-growing number has led to an increased awareness of this race through the media — such as all-Hispanic radio and cable stations.

Then there is the Native American — a term which sounds funny at times. Perhaps because, at times, it is. No other race in this country has been rejected and accepted as much as the aboriginal peoples of this land. For native peoples to even have survived this long — to see a new millennium — is amazing.

No other race has faced extermination in their own land as often. No other race has been forced to leave its culture behind in its own land as often. No other race has been forced to abandon its own religious beliefs in its own lands as often. No other race has been more accepted into mainstream culture, yet not totally accepted as often. Today, in this state we call Oklahoma — which has the most diversified American Indian population in the country, many whites claim to have a "little Indian" in them. Yet, the difference is, they still view an Indian as being different — sometimes choosing to define Indians through dated western-type humor — thereby furthering the racial barrier.

No other race is mentioned specifically in the first articles of the U.S. Constitution. When dealing with financial matters, Article I, Sec. 8 states that the U.S. Congress has the right "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

What was it like to have been an American Indian in the 20th century? Ask anyone who is American Indian and you will get many unique answers.

Do not ask just anyone though. Do not ask the one who has chosen to dismiss his heritage and identity — the one for which the terms sovereignty and treaty rights mean little. Do not ask those who count themselves Indian, but whose blonde hair and blue eyes just doesn't seem to hide their true identity.

Ask the one who is full blood and looks it. Ask the one who has not received a job or a promotion because of his skin color. Ask the one who has been talked down to or dismissed because he does not fit

the all-American look.

Rather, ask the one who remains quiet, and desires it to be that way because he wishes that his life should remain peaceful. He feels no need to yell or scream to be heard, because that is simply not his nature to do so. Ask the one who cares little about modern conveniences, choosing to live life reminiscent of the old ways — to sing and dance ceremonial songs all night and practice healing medicine for a grateful people. One who is able to live and believe as he chooses. Ask the one who still has faith in one true God who will one day judge all men — the true God who will receive all those with love in their hearts, love toward all men, regardless of color.

Ask the one who has defiantly led the stand against the U.S. government in the name of injustice and prejudice, only to find that many times he is simply thought of as a cartoonish sports icon or a romantic symbol of a period long ago.

Ask those who have been to war — those who took the stand and chose to be counted as a part of this country — even though they were not counted as citizens or members they gave their blood and heart to, what was many times, an ungrateful and forgetful country.

Ask the one who was raised and disciplined military-style in government boarding school in the 30s. Ask the World War II private first class whose commanding sergeant believed in him so much that he dictated — "If anything happens to me, I want you at the controls..." That private was Muscogee Citizen Phillip Coon.

Ask the one who made movies in Hollywood — not because he *acted* like an Indian — he was an Indian! Ask the one who said "I've seen Italians play Indians. Someday I would like to play an Italian" — Muscogee Citizen, Will "Sonny" Sampson.

Ask the one who played professional sports and was known for his brown skin — the one who set daring records such as the first American League pitcher to throw two no-hitters in a single season — the one who was known by his color and given the token name "Super Chief." He, and many Native American baseball players before him, played in a white man's game. They were not counted as white, nor did they receive any credit for breaking the "color barrier." That distinction would go to a black man. The "Super Chief" was Muscogee Citizen Allie Reynolds.

Ask the one who defiantly attempted to make sure the government kept its word. It was a simple task anyone, of any color, could attempt to do if they felt the government was doing them wrong — only he had the documents to prove it. Legend has it that he shook hands with President Theodore Roosevelt and attempted to tell the leader his government's wrongdoing,

only to be briskly shuffled away by officials who would have none of it. This early activist was Muscogee Citizen Chitto Harjo.

Ask the educated one, who attempted to capture the spirit of his fellow tribal members through the written word. He, during his time, was perhaps the most significant Native American writer alive. This first American Indian to receive significant acknowledgment as a poet, journalist, and humorist was Muscogee Citizen Alexander Posey.

Ask the ones who were made wealthy by greed for oil, who wine and dined in a town named Okmulgee — yet whose red skin would not lend them the competency necessary to handle their affairs in a white man's system. Muscogee Citizens Katie Fixico and Jackson Barnett were numbered among the wealthy that made Okmulgee known for being the town with more millionaires in its city limits than any Northeastern Oklahoma town.

Ask the one who officially led and reestablished Muscogee government in the 20th century. The one, who by a popular vote of the people, helped to decide how this sovereign government would function. This Muscogee Citizen was Claude A. Cox.

Even though we can't physically ask many mentioned here, it is their example that leaves their answer. To have known what it was like to be Native American in the 20th century is to truly grasp the concept of the American ideal of self-survival. The underdog takes his punches from a cruel and giant world. Sometimes he has his language, religion, the very fabric of being stripped away until he stands there, beaten and shaken, but not defeated. He must fight and continue to do so — for that is what he must do — because that is the way things are.

Perhaps the twentieth-first century will be kinder to Native Americans. The all-out war to assimilate Indians seems to be over or perhaps not as extreme as it once was. Perhaps the non-Indian world will be more respectful and acknowledge the aboriginal peoples of this land for who they are — the first people and the last. Hopefully native peoples will be acknowledged not just in word, but by example — through full acknowledgment of treaty rights, sovereignty gains, and the dropping of mascot names.

As the past year has been spent highlighting special citizens, events, and groups of this century, let's hope the next century produces the same passion in many to take a stand — to take a stand in war and peace time, in battles for tribal rights, and general love and understanding of one another. For it is then that this century will have been a stepping stone to better things, and not a detriment.

Home builders association holds annual Christmas party for Ryal School; plans on continuing tradition well into the new millennium

TULSA — The Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa recently held their 33rd annual Christmas party for the students and faculty member of Ryal School.

According to Gail Monnot, public affairs director, the project continues to gain interest among the association's members and the group plans on continuing the tradition of caring and giving that the late Olen Creekmore expressed toward others well into the next millennium.

The students were treated to a shopping spree at Wal-Mart, live performances from the Whitaker Sisters, gift drawings, and a Mazzio's pizza party.

Wal-Mart donated \$1,000 to Ryal School, in addition to \$40 the association gave each child. Each child had a total of \$50 to spend.

The home builders ladies auxiliary started this annual event 33 years ago.

The auxiliary wanted to do something special for less fortunate children around Christmas, said Association Volunteer Sue Creekmore. The group heard of Ryal School and thought it was the perfect choice.

For the first three years, the auxiliary purchased gifts for boys and girls of various ages and traveled some sixty miles south to deliver the gifts to the students at Ryal School.

Eventually, Olen Creekmore inherited the project and with various corporate donations, he began having Christmas parties at the home builders main office in Tulsa. Creekmore continued the annual event up until his passing in April of 1993.



The Whitaker Sisters sang songs by famous country artists such as Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline during their performance for Ryal School.



Seth Gambler and a Home Builders Association volunteer get help from a Wal-Mart employee on calculating how much money he has spent.



Matthew King looks to see what else can fit in his shopping cart.



Santa visits with the kids during the pizza party.

Garrett Harjo waits in line for a volunteer to help him shop.



Programs-notices

Division creates job opportunity hotline

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Administration has created a Job Opportunity Hotline.

The hotline is a recorded message, updated weekly, providing a list of all the job vacancies within the DHA.

The hotline can be reached at (918) 756-8700, ext. 289 or 1 (800) 782-8291, ext. 289.

Creek senior citizens meeting to be held

OKMULGEE — A Creek Senior Citizens meeting will be held in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation elderly nutrition room on Jan. 5 at 10 a.m.

Guest speakers David Moore and John Rissler will present the latest information concerning housing and land issues within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

For more information, contact Esther Grona at: (918) 756-8700 ext. 603, or (918) 759-2459.

Gaming commission meets with officials

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Indian Gaming Commission met for the first time with the tribal advisory committee, a group of tribal officials and attorneys to discuss issues facing tribes in the area of development of environmental and public health and safety standards for Indian gaming operations.

The recently formed advisory committee is a collective group of 10 tribal leaders and attorneys with experience in Indian gaming and public health and safety issues. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Commissioner Sharon Franz is one of the 10 members of the committee.

Many tribal governments have implemented measures to adequately protect the environment and public health and safety. The NIGC monitors and ensures that such measures are implemented at all tribal gaming facilities.

Kerr Center Oklahoma farmers grant program

POTEAU — The Kerr Center for Suitable Agriculture has released two calls for proposals to provide Oklahoma farmers the opportunity to try innovative ideas in sustainable agriculture.

The first call covers sustainable farming and ranching practices. The second call is focused on organic growing techniques. It is more advantageous to fill out the second special call if the project fits the category.

This program allows for farmer to farmer education and site specific application of new farming practices. Grants will be awarded in two categories: research and demonstration.

In order to be considered for the program, participants must write a grant that meets the following requirements. The grant application must: have a direct connection with the priority areas; remain within the funding ranges; be signed; have a title; and have a budget worksheet and budget narrative.

Cooperation with agricultural professionals is strongly urged, but not required for demonstration projects. Research projects do require assistance from agricultural specialists in the state. Agents in the state are not required to assist in filling out an application,

Local faculty and staff complete Muscogee language class

GRAHAM — Ryal, Dustin, and Stidham School staff members completed a basic Muscogee language evening class at Graham High School.

The language class was arranged by the Wes Watkins Technology Center and began on Sept. 27 and ended on Nov. 4.

The participants completed 24 hours of basic sentence structure using Muscogee nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns in order to speak and comprehend parts of the language. Each participant received a certificate for the language class.

Consultation and assistance with curriculum was provided by Muscogee Language and Cultural Research Specialist Tim Thompson of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Office. Linda Sulphur Johnson, family preservation worker of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services, was the instructor.



photo submitted

Proudly displaying certificates after completing language class are, from left to right: Gayle Fowler; Mack Davis; Robbie Peet; Randy Witham; Kim Weeks; Ruby Schatt; Jane Evans; and Linda Johnson, instructor. Not pictured are: Linda Berno; Louis Hicks; and Steve and Mallia Williams.

but are willing to assist with any questions and support.

The Kerr Center specialists are available to give presentations about the program to educators of farmers.

Send grant applications to: Alan Ware, P.O. Box 588, Hwy. 271 South, Poteau, OK 74593; or fax (918) 647-8712. Grant applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Feb. 15.

For more information call (918) 647-9123 or e-mail: mailbox@kerrcenter.com.

Hospice of Green Country seeks volunteers

TULSA — Hospice of Green Country, Inc. is seek-

ing volunteers for direct patient care or help with office work.

Hospice is a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments. Hospice care neither prolongs life nor hastens death.

Hospice staff and volunteers offer a specialized knowledge of medical care, including pain management. The goal of hospice care is to improve the quality of a patient's last days by offering comfort and dignity.

For more information, contact Mary Saurer at: (918) 747- CARE (2273).

Hughes county woman first grant recipient of Creek housing mortgage assistance program

STUART — Lisa Miranda became the first grant recipient of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Authority Mortgage Assistance Program on Nov. 2.

Miranda attended a loan fair held by the housing authority mortgage assistance program in hopes of acquiring assistance in obtaining affordable housing. Through the mortgage assistance program, Miranda was able to receive grant assistance for the down payment and closing cost of a home.

Principal Chief Perry Beaver signed Section 184, Housing Codes through legislation NCA 99-109 into law on Sept. 1. The law authorized the establish-

ment of the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund to provide access to sources of private financing to

Indian families and Indian housing authorities who otherwise could not acquire housing financing because of the unique legal status of Indian trust land.

"New innovative programs like the mortgage assistance program will help Creek citizens obtain affordable housing," stated Beaver.

"The Mortgage as-

sistance program will help families that had previously fell between the cracks because of over income and limited income."

For more information, contact Floyd Jones, senior loan officer, at (918) 756-8504.



photo submitted

Standing from left to right are: Stephanie Howell; Floyd Jones; Lisa Miranda; Chief Perry Beaver; and Frances Root.

Education-society

Education

NNAHC announces art contest winners

TAHLEQUAH — The National Native American Heritage Committee announced the winners of the Native American Art Contest held in conjunction with Native American Heritage Month.

The art contest winners are: grand award and first place, grades eighth through 12, Elizabeth Porter; second place, James Fife; first place, grades first through seventh, Bonnie Krebs; second place, Shareena Pulse; honorable mention, Zane Sullins; first place, 18 and older, Sarah Pulse; and second place, Karen Gibson.

All entries were required to be of Native American origin and related to the theme: "Continuing Traditions into the 21st Century."

The prizes awarded to each of the categories were: first place, \$50 savings bond, and second place, \$25 savings bond.

Entries from 113 aspiring young artists were received from all over the Southern Plains Indian Housing Authority region, including all of Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Scholarship available for undergraduates

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Morris K. Udall Scholarship is available for undergraduate students in the disciplines related to the environment and to Native American and Alaska Natives who study health care or tribal policy.

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Morris K. Udall for 30 years of service in the House of Representatives.

Next spring, the National Environmental Policy Foundation will award approximately 75 scholarships to outstanding students, to be known as Morris K. Udall Scholars.

To be considered for an award, students must be nominated by their undergraduate institution. Applications must be received by Feb. 15.

Eligibility criteria and information regarding the nomination process can be obtained by contacting the foundation directly at: (520) 670-5529.

Careers

Tribal citizen awarded citation for contribution

STILLWATER — John M. Chaney, Ph.D., professor of clinical psychology at Oklahoma State University, was awarded the Oklahoma Psychological Association's 1999 Citation for Distinguished Contribution by a Psychologist in the Public Interest.

Chaney is a member of the Society of Indian Psychologists, serves on the Indian Health Service Scholarship Board, and is



Chaney

the executive director of the American Indians Into Psychology program at OSU, which is funded by the Indian Health Service.

He was cited by the OPA for his work in recruitment and training of American Indian students for careers in psychology.

He is the son of Jackson Steele and Barbara Chaney of Pryor. His grandmother is the late Dora Colbert Chaney of Muskogee.

Native organization sponsors own art exhibit

SANTE FE, N.M. — The Native American Arts Alliance marked a first for both American Indians and the international arts community by claiming tribal sovereignty by sponsoring its own international arts exhibit at the prestigious Venice Biennale in Italy.

NA3 curated the exhibit, "Ceremonial," in the hopes of redefining contemporary native arts through self-determination.

The works of featured artists Rick Glazer Danay, Harry Fonseca, Bob Haozoua, Frank LaPena, Jaune Quick To See Smith, Kay WalkingStick, Richard Ray Whitman, and poet Simon Ortiz was juried by the curatorial board of the Biennale offices and sanctioned as an official "a later" exhibit.

Arrivals

Angel Wacoche

LOS ANGELES — Angel Wacoche was born May 12 to Christine Leah Wacoche.

Wacoche's grandparents are Lori Wacoche of Los Angeles and Melvin Wacoche of Eufaula.

He is the nephew of William and Jesse Wacoche.



Wacoche

Birthdays

Tribal citizen celebrates fourth birthday

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jaycie La Raine Roberts celebrated her fourth birthday at Celebration Station on Nov. 16.

Roberts is the daughter of Jennifer Frye and Brandon Roberts of Midwest City.

Her maternal grandparents are Johnny and Marion Bunny Frye of Oklahoma City. Her paternal grandmother is Evelyn Greenwood of Sasakwa.

Great-grandparents are: the late James and Lucille Smith Bunny; the late Hepsey Walker Frye and Harbie and May Frye of Henryetta; Geraldine Greenwood of Ada; and the late Virgil Greenwood.

She is of Muskogee and Chickasaw descent and belongs to the Bird Clan.



Roberts

Dowdy makes All-American team

PHOENIX — Bill Dowdy of the Tulsa Gray Sox was named to the Amateur Softball Association 1999 Men's 45 and over Fast-Pitch All-American Team.

Dowdy was chosen for his play during the national championship tournament. His team placed third with an overall record of four wins and two losses.

He is the general services administration manager at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



Wetumka boy celebrates sixth birthday

HENRYETTA — Ashton Kagan Taylor turned six years old on Nov. 22. He celebrated his birthday with a "Men In Black" happy meal party at McDonalds.

Those attending were: Betsy Taryole and Melinda Taylor; Richard, Shelia, and Jasmine Buckley; Lucas, Stefanie, and Alissa Taylor; Garrett and Tess Harjo; and Judy and Thomas Wildcat.

Taylor is the son of Walter and Melinda Taylor of Henryetta and Kerstin Givens of Wetumka.

His grandparents are Sally Ann and the late Walter Taylor and Sonny and Betsy Taryole, all of Henryetta.

Great-grandparents are: Edna and the late Martin Mitchell of Henryetta; the late Lizzie Tiger; Marchie Taylor; and Sarah Harjo of Henryetta.

He belongs to the Bird Clan.



Taylor

Henryetta girl celebrates birthday at McDonalds

HENRYETTA — Alissa Callie Taylor celebrated her fourth birthday Dec. 18 at McDonalds with a "World Wrestling Federation" party theme.

Those attending were: Shelly, Tess, and Garrett Harjo; Melinda, J.R., and Ashton Taylor; Richard, Shelia and Jasmine Buckley; and Matt and Courtney Pulliam.

She is the daughter of Lucas and Stefanie Ann Taylor of Henryetta.

Her paternal grandparents are Sally Ann and the late Walter Taylor of Henryetta.

Her maternal grandparents are Louise and Richard Pulliam of Dewar.

Great-grandparents are: Edna and the late Martin Mitchell of Henryetta; the late Lizzie Tiger; Marchie Taylor; and Sarah Harjo of Henryetta.

She belongs to the Bird Clan.



Taylor

Obituaries-religion

CALVIN CHISSOE

BROKEN ARROW — Funeral services for Calvin Woodrow Chissoe were held Nov. 12 at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church with Rev. Bemadine Dowdy officiating.

He died Nov. 9 at Catoosa. He was born Feb. 3, 1934 in Coweta to William Francis and Pauline Chissoe.

Chissoe served in the U.S. Army from Dec. 23, 1940 to Dec. 20, 1945. He and Irene Longbone were united in marriage in 1946 at Ft. Smith, Ark. He was employed with the U.S. Postal Service.

He is preceded in death by: his parents; one sister, Wanema Chissoe Johnson; one brother, Bill Chissoe Jr.; and one daughter, Beverly Nan Chissoe.

Chissoe is survived by: his wife; two sons, Alan Chissoe of Bartlesville and Ron Chissoe of the home; one daughter, Jeanne Lay of Albuquerque, N.M.; brother, Paul Chissoe of Tulsa; three grandchildren, Dakota, Ronnie, and David Allen; one great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Johnny Johnson; Martin Thomas; Ronnie Chissoe; Alan Chissoe; Joe Brooks; Bruce Thomas; and Keith Kay.

Interment was at the Ft. Gibson National cemetery.

TOMMY CURRAN

SCHULTER — Graveside services for Tommy Joe Curran were held Nov. 19 in Wetumka Cemetery with Rev. Jimmy Alexander officiating.

He died Nov. 16 at his home in Schuler. He was born March 24, 1941 to Pearline and Denver Curran.

Curran belonged to Deer Clan and Arbeka Tribal Town. He graduated from Weleetka High School in 1958 and lettered in basketball, football, and baseball.

He and Mary Ann Roberts were married in Van Buren, Ark. on March 29, 1958. Curran was employed as a radiographer for Edwards Pipeline Testing Inc. He was employed with Ball Brothers Glass plant for 18 years and later worked for Creek Nation Housing Authority. He enjoyed fishing, cooking, working in his garden, and being with his family.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Mary Ann; one granddaughter, Rae Lynn Sills; and one brother, Henry Jennings.

He is survived by: three daughters, Cheryl Gibson of Weleetka, Cathy Tarwater of Eufaula, and Bobbie Jo Robertson of Henryetta; four brothers, Danny Day of Owasso, James "Sonny" Jennings and Bobby Dean Jennings, both of Okmulgee and Kenneth Jennings of Weleetka; two sisters, Jean LeGrand of Okmulgee, Lou Hudson of Arcadia; his mother, Pearline Day of Okmulgee; and a special friend, Kay Willie of Morris; and 10 grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Robert Evans; Norman Rogers; Stanley Graham; Ray Milam; Clifford Mahan; and Frank Shurden.

Honorary pallbearers were: Snag Wells and Billy Brown.

BARBARA LAMBERT

BROKEN ARROW — Funeral services for Barbara Jean Lambert were held Nov. 9 at Christian Gavlik Funeral Home with Rev. Ernest Best officiating.

She died Nov. 5 at her home in Lenna. She was born Sept. 19, 1934 to Loyd and Dortha Reed in Bakersfield,

Calif.

Lambert graduated from Stidham School in 1952. She married Gordon Lambert on Feb. 17, 1954. She graduated from The University of Central Arkansas in 1976 with a degree in nursing. She retired from Broken Arrow Medical Center on Dec. 31, 1993.

She was preceded in death by: her father; grandparents, Major Morrison, Carrie Levi, and Nora Reed; and a son, Craig Lambert.

She is survived by: her husband of the home; son, Steve Lambert; her mother; and brother, Russell Reed.

Pallbearers were: Chester Best; Clarence Robertson; Bob Jones; Tommy Jones; Adam Jones Jr.; and Danny Williams.

Interment was held at Morrison Cemetery in Lenna.

WEETSIE McNAC

BRISTOW — Funeral services for Weetsie McNac were held Nov. 1 at her home with Rev. John Fixico officiating. Traditional speakers were Bonnie Deere and Eunice Hill.

Wake services were held Oct. 31.

She died Oct. 28 in Bristow. McNac was born Feb. 20, 1901 in Henryetta to Little Tommy and Ellie Johnson.

Weetsie belonged to the Raccoon Clan and was an elder member of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground. She was devoted to her traditional ways and duties. Even though she could not take an active part, she was always concerned for her members and others she came in contact with. She was an advocate of Mvskoke language and cultural preservation. She was a resource for tribal language and oral history.

She enjoyed gardening, sewing quilts, and beadwork. She was known to many as "MaMa Cule" and was a mother to all that came to her home. She raised and educated any child that needed her help. Caring was her way of life.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; husband, Johnny McNac; son, George McNac; and two brothers, Sonny Harjochee and Albert Johnson.

She is survived by: son, Amos McNac of Bristow; sister, Nellie Jones of Bristow; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: David Cloud; Billy Cloud; Dustin Cloud; William Cloud; Benny Cloud; Chapman Cloud; and Shawn Harjo.

Interment was at the Johnson-McNac Family Cemetery.

Gratitude

We would like to express our appreciation for all the flowers, plants, money, and prayers offered to us during the loss of our loved one.

We would like to thank all of our family and friends for their support and efforts toward making our time of need less burdensome.

We would like to express our appreciation to Hickory Ground #2 Baptist Church for their help and food. We would like to thank Paul and Betty Smith and others who helped provide food for the family.

We also want to thank Speedy and Betty Harley and Kelly Lowe for clearing the burial site. Thanks to Jerry Sumka for building the covering for the grave.

Special thanks is offered to Hickory Ground #2 and Robert Simons' Funeral Home.

We thank the Lord most of all for his loving and

reassuring Word and his promises and blessings he has bestowed in our lives

Jonas Harley Family

The family of George Jacobs would like to thank Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church members, Rev. Mitchell Taylor, and all those who came and offered support during our time of need.

We would also like to thank all those who sent flowers, food, cards, and donations.

We would also like to thank: Seminole Nation Armor Guard; Muscogee Nation Lighthorse; Muscogee Nation Social Services; Muscogee Nation Office of the Principal Chief; and Robert Simon's Funeral Home.

George Jacobs Family

We would like to say *mvto* to all of the friends and teammates, as well as our family, in the Muscogee Nation for their acts of kindness shown to us during the loss of our father.

Our dad always looked forward to playing in the softball tournament during the Creek Nation Festival each year and dearly loved to tease and joke with the "Creek boys."

He fought a long, hard battle, but has won the ultimate victory.

We appreciate you all very much.

Wayne "Windy" Ward Family

Religion

Last stompdance of the century to be held

OKEMAH — Wesley Butler and friends are hosting the "Last Stompdance of the Century" from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Dec. 31 at Okemah Indian Community Center.

The community center is located two blocks south of Interstate 40 on state highway 27.

Creek Chapel to hold all night services

OKEMAH — Creek Chapel Methodist Church will hold all night New Year's Eve services beginning at 8 p.m., Dec. 31.

From Okemah, the church is located two miles south on state highway 27 and four miles east.

All Tribes to hold New Year's Eve services

TULSA — All Tribes will be holding its New Year's Eve services beginning at 8 p.m., Dec. 31.

The church is located at 2501 E. Archer.

Wewoka schedules New Year's Eve services

YEAGER — Wewoka United Methodist Church will be holding its New Year's Eve services beginning at 8 p.m., Dec. 31.

All speakers are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

From state highway 48 and Junction 270, drive three miles east and drive seven miles north on Yeager Road.

Wekiwa church to hold monthly gospel singing

SAND SPRINGS — Wekiwa Baptist Church will hold its monthly gospel singing on Jan. 1.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and singing will begin at 7 p.m.

The church's monthly gospel singing is held on the first Saturday of every month. Prayer meetings are held at 7 p.m. every Wednesday.